



A Fawcett Publication

# PHIL RIZZUTO

BASEBALL HERO

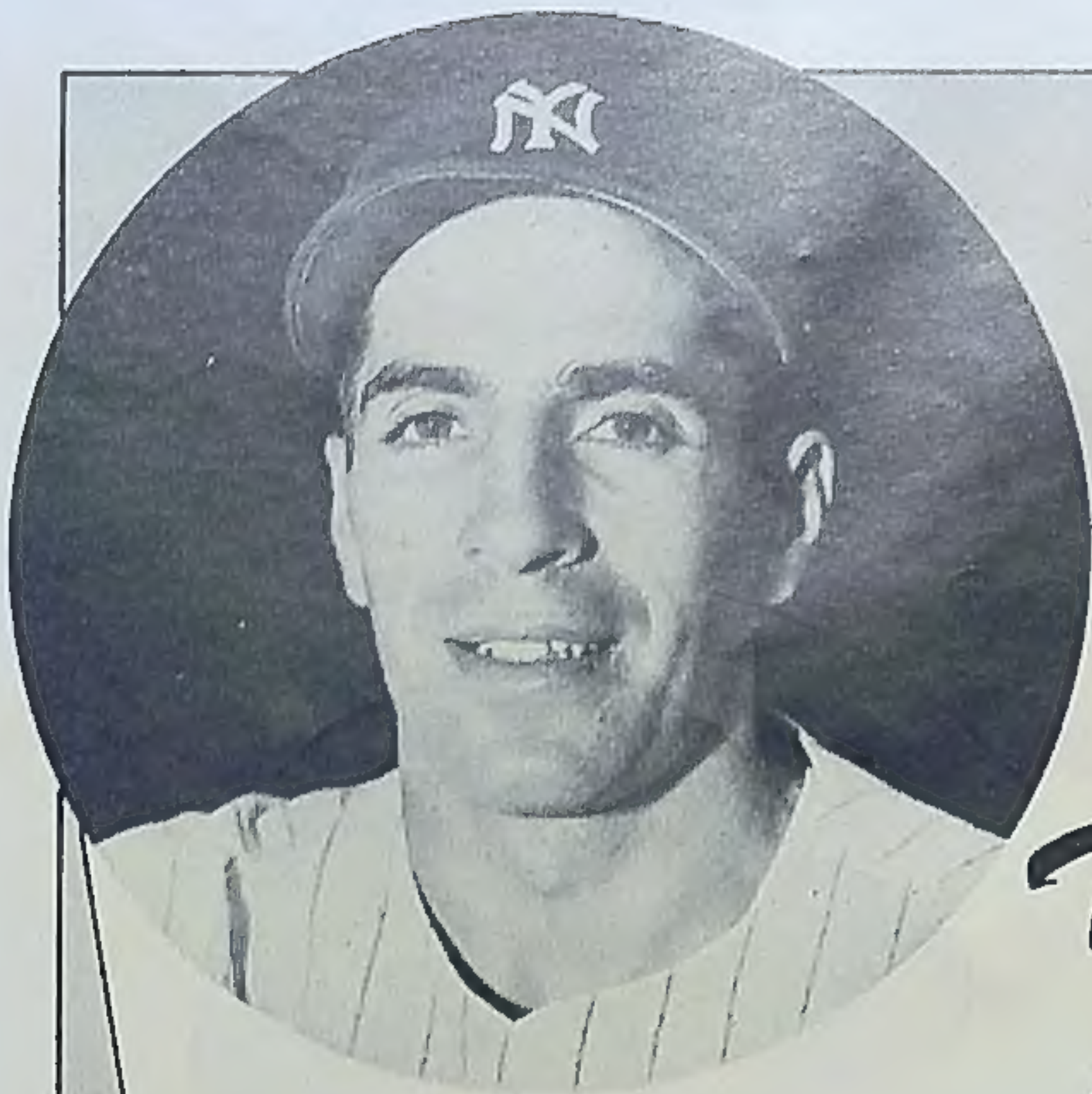
THE SENSATIONAL STORY OF  
THE AMERICAN LEAGUE'S  
MOST VALUABLE PLAYER



10¢







## *To All My Loyal Fans:*

This story of my career comes to you during the happiest year of my life, when I have been able to play my best ball for you—my fans.

Many of you have asked me how I do it, and in this book I have tried to show you a little about the way to hit and field and run the bases. But playing baseball is more than just going to bat or stopping a hard hit ball back of second base. It is sacrificing oneself to rigorous training, to the discipline of clean living. And it is playing the game to win, from the first ball pitched in the spring to the final out in September.

That I have tried to do for you in return for your support. I really mean it when I say, it's been wonderful to be your "SCOOTER."

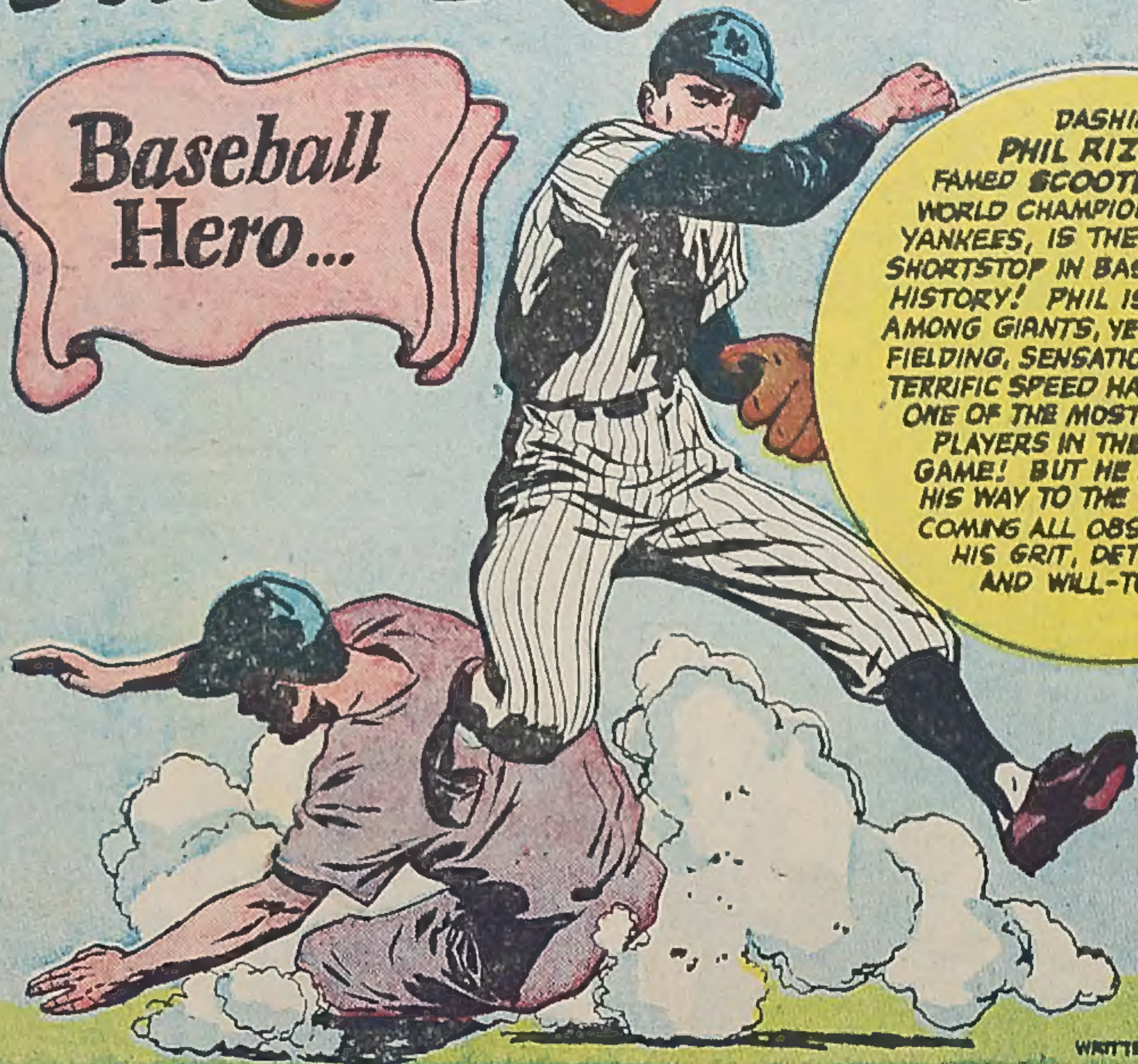
*Phil Rizzuto*



# Phil RIZZUTO

Baseball  
Hero...

DASHING  
PHIL RIZZUTO,  
FAMED SCOOTER OF THE  
WORLD CHAMPION NEW YORK  
YANKEES, IS THE GREATEST  
SHORTSTOP IN BASEBALL'S LONG  
HISTORY! PHIL IS A MIDGET  
AMONG GIANTS, YET HIS BRILLIANT  
FIELDING, SENSATIONAL HITTING AND  
TERRIFIC SPEED HAVE MADE HIM  
ONE OF THE MOST VALUABLE  
PLAYERS IN THE NATIONAL  
GAME! BUT HE HAD TO FIGHT  
HIS WAY TO THE TOP, OVER-  
COMING ALL OBSTACLES BY  
HIS GRIT, DETERMINATION  
AND WILL-TO-WIN!



WRITTEN BY CHARLES DENTON

PHIL IS A TIRELESS FIELDING  
MACHINE WHO SNARES HOT  
SMASHES AT ALL ANGLES, THROWS  
BULLETS, HOLDS LEAGUE RECORDS  
FOR PUT-OUTS, DOUBLE-PLAYS,  
ERRORLESS STREAKS!

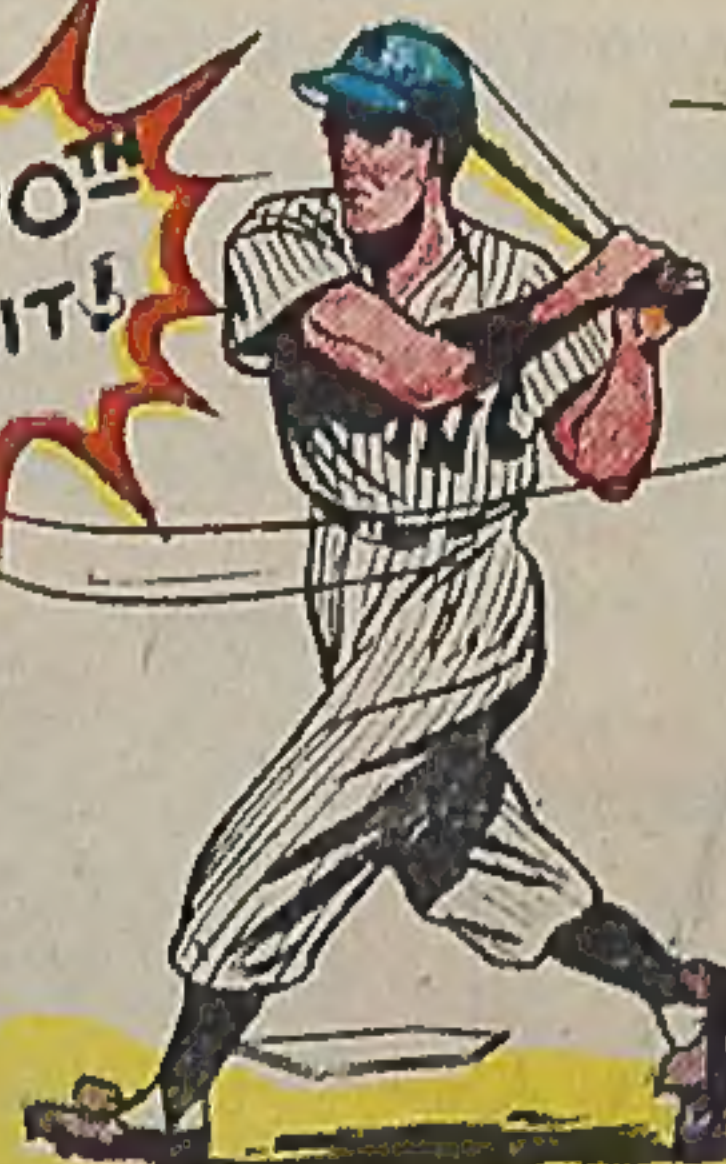
IN 1941 AND  
1942, HIS FIRST  
TWO YANKEE  
SEASONS...

...PHIL LED  
THE AMERICAN  
LEAGUE IN  
TWIN KILLINGS,  
COMPLETING  
225!

PHIL HAS AVERAGED TWENTY  
STOLEN BASES A SEASON  
SINCE HE BEGAN PLAYING BALL!



200<sup>TH</sup>  
HITS!

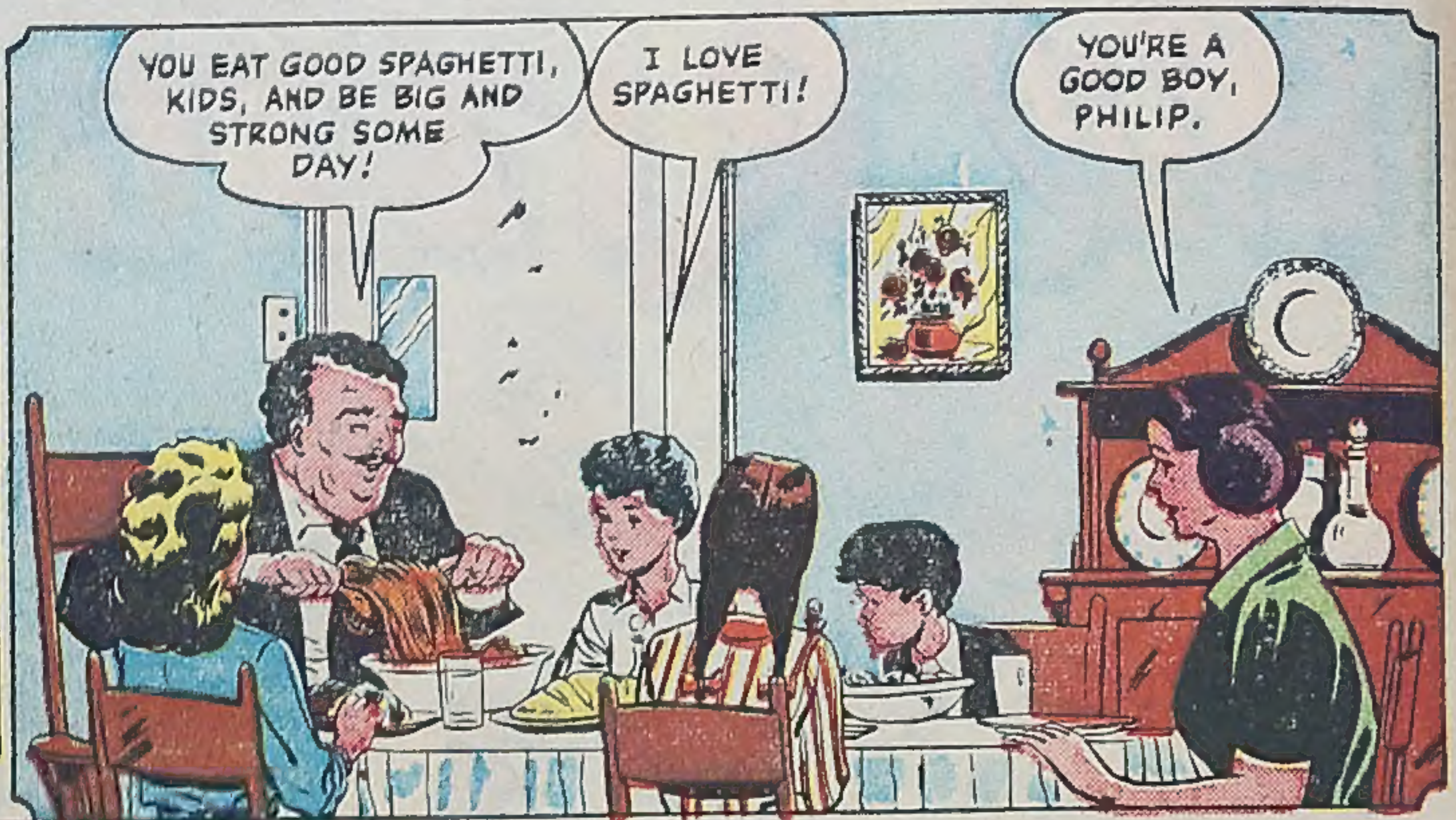


PHIL IS ONE OF THE MOST DANGEROUS BATTERS  
IN THE GAME, AN EXPERT BUNTER, A CLEVER  
PLACE-HITTER! IN 1950 HE SLASHED OUT 200  
HITS FOR A .324 AVERAGE- FOURTH IN THE  
AMERICAN LEAGUE!



# PHIL RIZZUTO, BASEBALL HERO

**F**ORTY YEARS AGO FILIPO RIZZUTO AND ROSA ANGOTTI LEFT THEIR NATIVE ITALY FOR AMERICA, MEETING AND MARRYING IN BROOKLYN WHERE THEIR FIRST SON, **PHILIP FRANCIS RIZZUTO**, WAS BORN ON SEPT. 25, 1918.



YOU EAT GOOD SPAGHETTI, KIDS, AND BE BIG AND STRONG SOME DAY!

I LOVE SPAGHETTI!

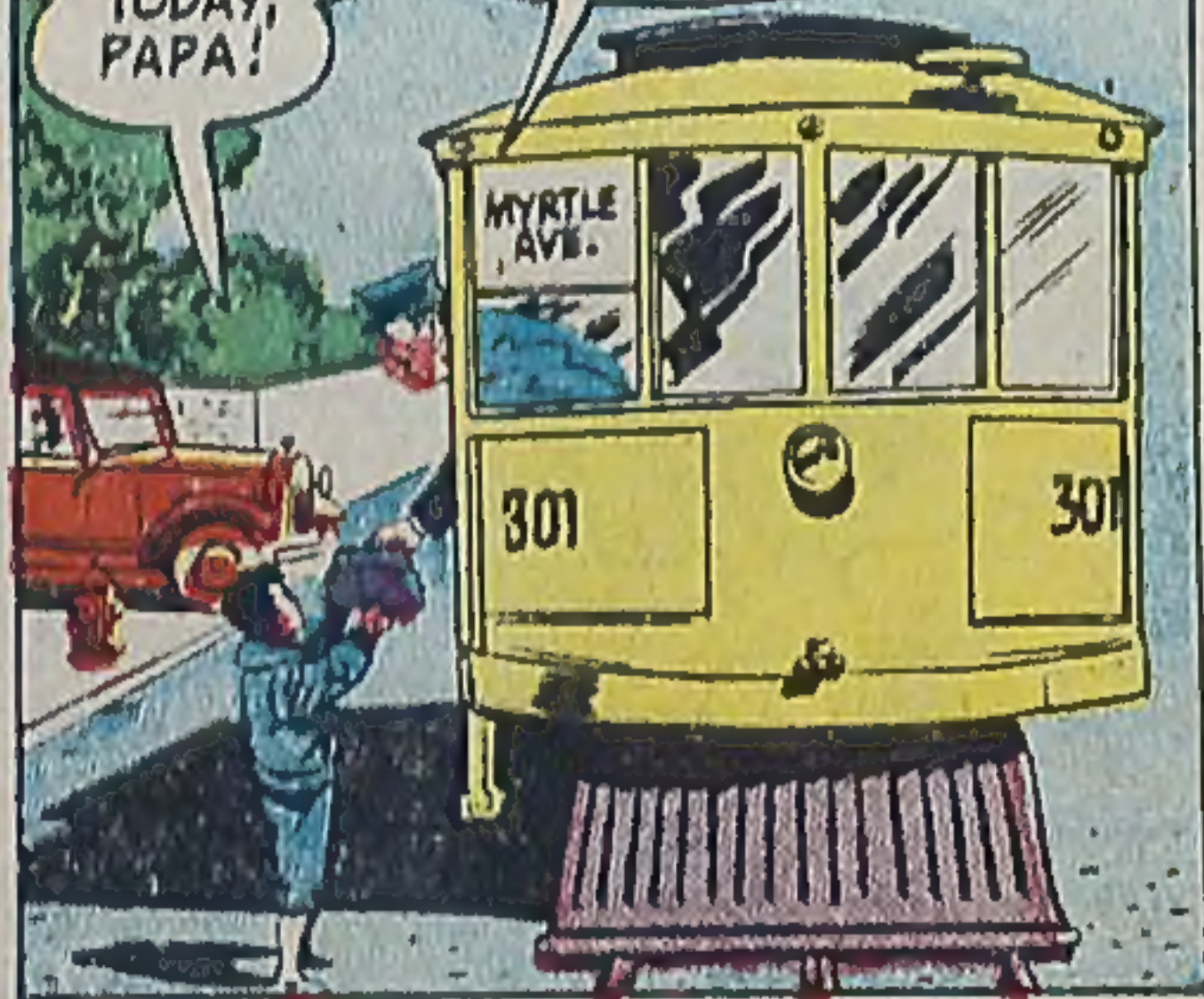
YOU'RE A GOOD BOY, PHILIP.

PHIL'S FATHER WAS A TROLLEY CAR MOTOR-MAN, AND EVERY DAY AFTER SCHOOL PHIL BROUGHT LUNCH TO PAPA RIZZUTO AND RODE WITH HIM TO THE END OF THE LINE!

PAPA SAVED HIS MONEY AND SOON QUIT HIS MOTORMAN'S JOB TO BECOME A BUILDING CONTRACTOR. BUT IN 1929 HARD TIMES CAME TO THE UNITED STATES.

LET ME RUN THE CAR TODAY, PAPA!

O.K.-- CLIMB ABOARD, PHIL!



I'VE LOST EVERY CENT, MAMMA!

WHAT WILL WE DO NOW, PAPA?

I'LL GET A JOB, MAMMA! I'M BIG ENOUGH!



AND PHIL WAS AS GOOD AS HIS WORD, BUT HIS EARNINGS ALONE WERE NOT ENOUGH, AND THE RIZZUTO FAMILY WENT ON RELIEF.

MEANWHILE, AT PUBLIC SCHOOL No. 68, PHIL WENT OUT FOR THE TRACK TEAM!

GET YOUR PAPER! TEN MILLION OUT OF WORK!

BRO. STANDARD-UNITON



YOU'RE TOO LITTLE FOR BALL GAMES, PHIL, BUT YOU CAN BECOME A CHAMPION SPRINTER.

I'LL DO MY BEST, COACH!



PHIL'S QUICK-BREAKING SPEED WON THE FIFTY AND SIXTY-YARD DASHES REGULARLY FOR P.S. 68!



# PHIL RIZZUTO, BASEBALL HERO

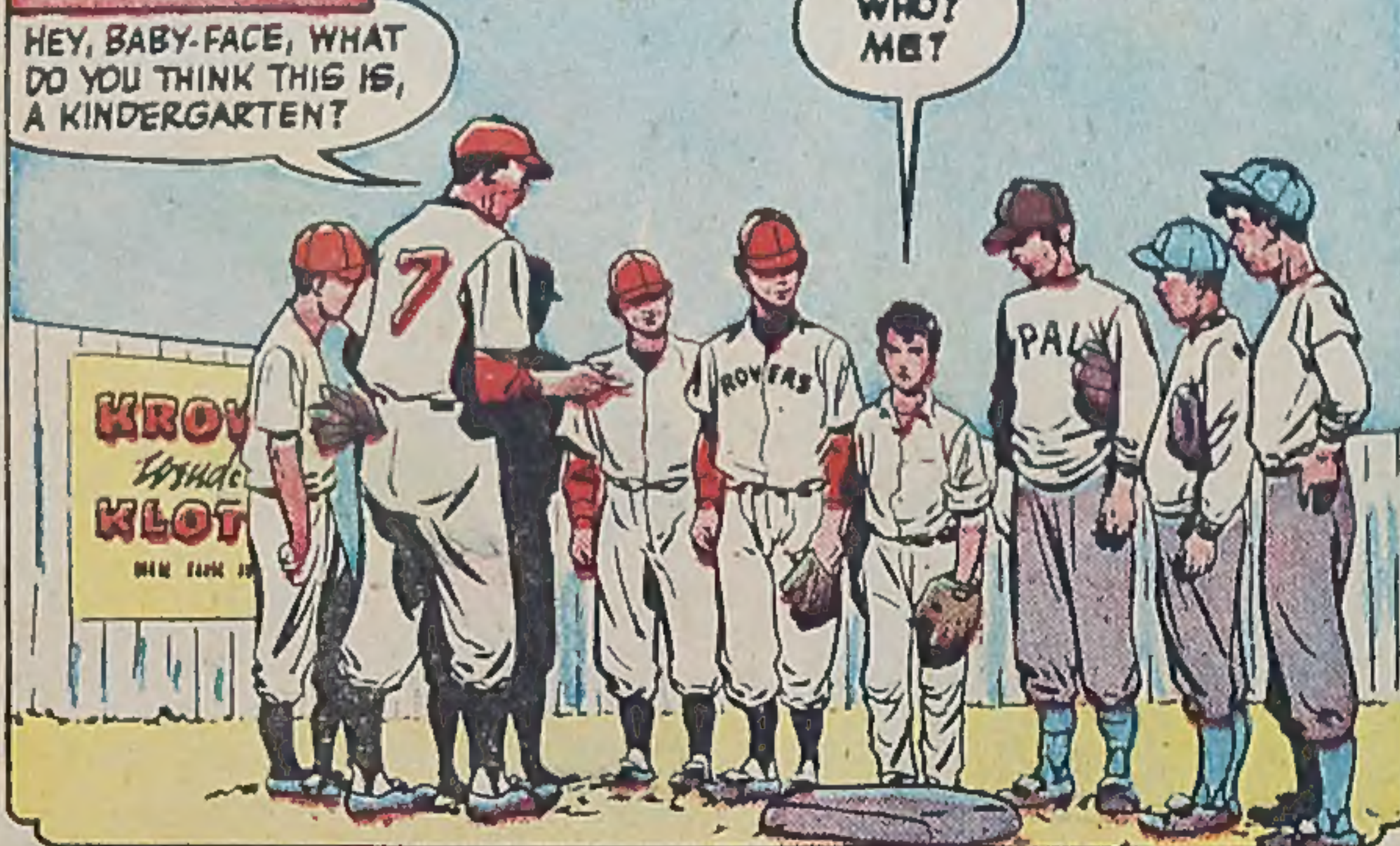
PHIL PLAYED ONE-OLD-CAT ON SANDLOTS, BUT WHEN HE TRIED TO GET INTO STICK BALL GAMES...



BUT AT THE OFFICE OF THE NEWSPAPER PHIL SOLD...



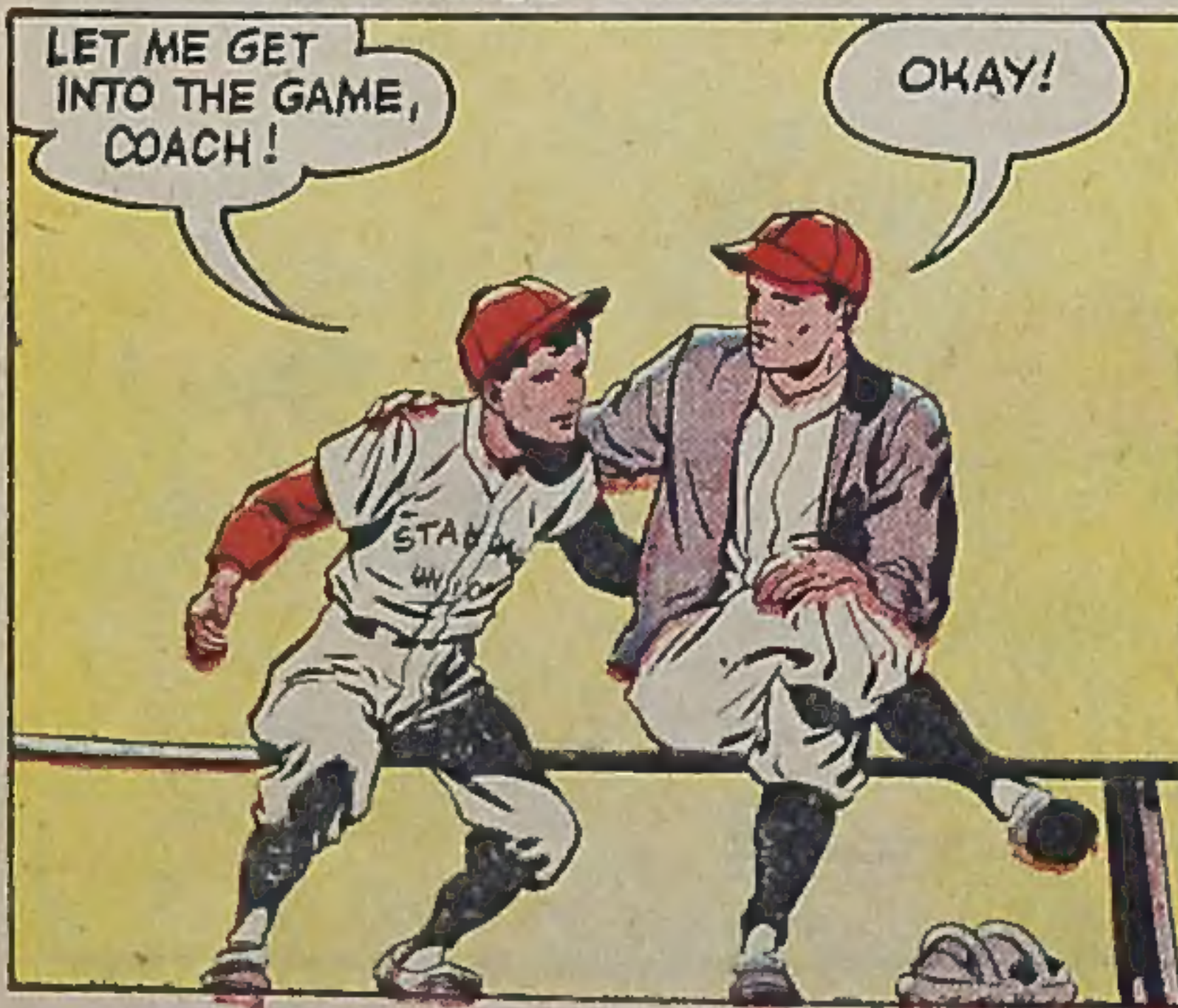
THAT SATURDAY...



I'M TWELVE YEARS OLD AND I RUN FOR MY SCHOOL TRACK TEAM. I CAN PLAY BALL AS WELL AS ANY OF THOSE GUYS. GIVE ME A CHANCE!

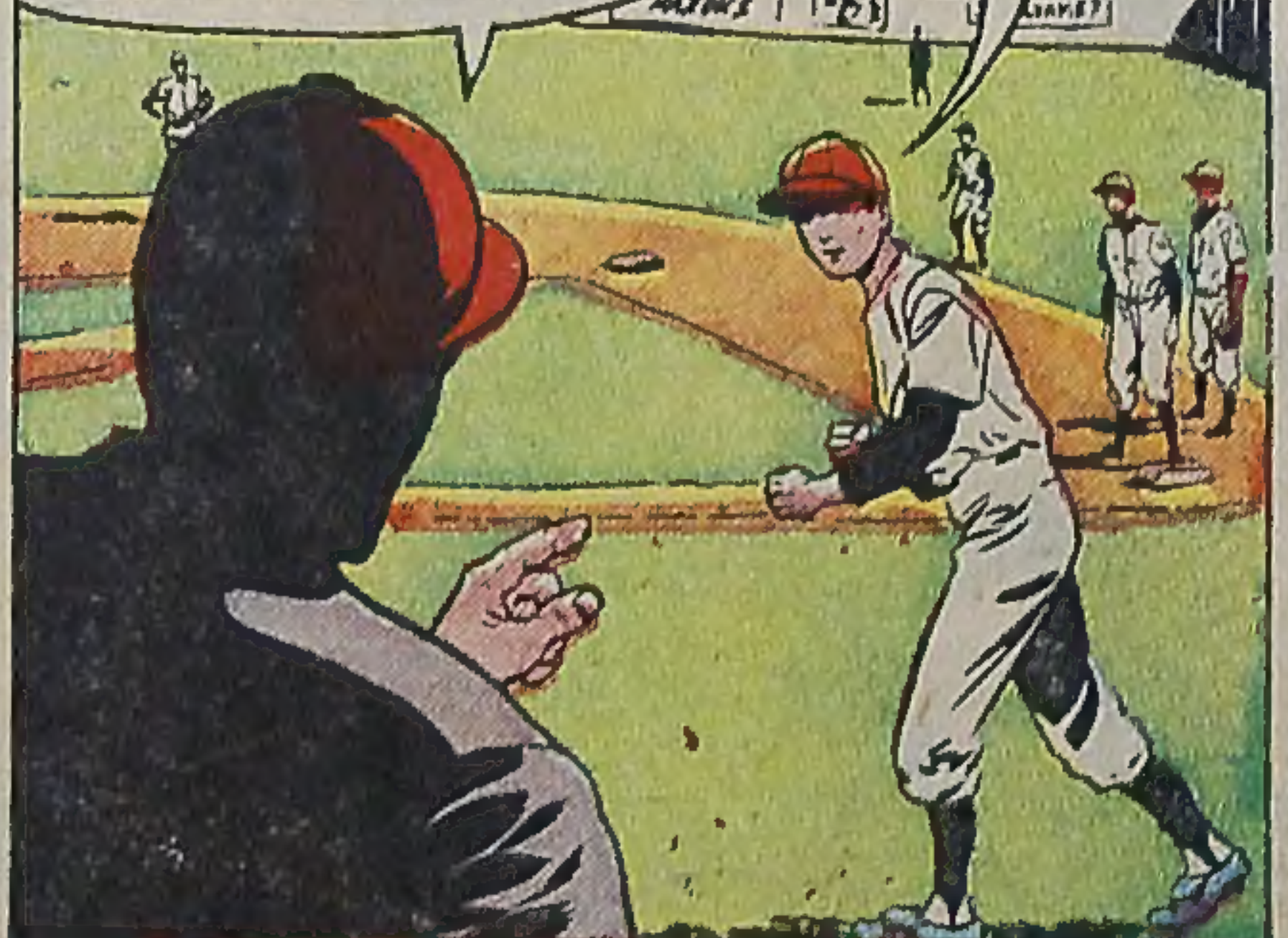


PHIL WAS OVERJOYED TO BE ON A REAL BALL CLUB AT LAST, BUT HE SAT ON THE BENCH UNTIL THE NINTH INNING! THEN...



YOU TAKE SMITTY'S PLACE ON FIRST! BUT BE CAREFUL! DON'T GET PICKED OFF, PHIL! WE NEED THIS RUN!

THANKS, COACH! I'LL BE CAREFUL.





# PHIL RIZZUTO, BASEBALL HERO



THE PITCHER TRIED TO PICK HIM OFF, BUT PHIL DIVED BACK TO FIRST!



AND ON THE VERY NEXT PITCH, HE STOLE THIRD!



BECAUSE OF HIS TERRIFIC SPEED, PHIL WAS ASSIGNED TO CENTERFIELD. SOMETIMES HE WAS SO FAST THAT HE OVERRAN FLY BALLS, BUT HE RARELY MISSED ONE!



LITTLE PHIL DIDN'T GET MANY HITS, BUT...



WALKING TWO OR THREE TIMES IN EACH GAME, PHIL OFTEN STOLE BASES AND RACED HOME WITH VALUABLE RUNS!

AFTER THE SEASON'S FINAL GAME, PLAYED AT EBBETS FIELD...

ATTABOY, PHIL!

YOU WON THE SANDLOT CHAMPIONSHIP FOR US, PHIL!

SIX STOLEN BASES IN ONE GAME... WOW!





THAT SUMMER, PAPA RIZZUTO MOVED HIS FAMILY FROM BROOKLYN'S CROWDED STREETS TO PRETTY GLENDALE, ON LONG ISLAND! THERE PHIL ENTERED RICHMOND HILL HIGH SCHOOL!

PHIL TURNED OUT FOR FOOTBALL PRACTICE THAT FALL, BUT...

HERE, RIZZUTO, YOU BE THE WATER BOY!

AW, COACH, I COULD QUARTERBACK THIS TEAM SWELL!



ALTHOUGH HE DIDN'T GET ON THE GRID SQUAD, PHIL EASILY MADE THE TRACK TEAM!

RIZZUTO WINS THE SIXTY-YARD DASH IN 6.4 SECONDS!



YOUNG PHIL WAITED EAGERLY FOR BASEBALL SEASON TO BEGIN!

THE FOLLOWING BOYS WILL REPORT FOR BASEBALL PRACTICE TOMORROW... WATSON, CLEMENTI, COHEN, GRACIA, SMITH...

WHERE'S MY NAME?



BUT I TELL YOU I WAS ON THE CHAMPIONSHIP SANDLOT TEAM LAST YEAR, MR. KUNITZ. I KNOW I CAN HELP OUR CLUB! GIVE ME A CHANCE!

I LIKE YOUR SPEED, PHIL, BUT YOU'RE TOO SMALL TO HIT. SUPPOSE YOU REPORT TOMORROW AND I'LL SEE WHAT YOU CAN DO IN A GAME.



THAT NIGHT...

I'M PLAYING ON THE SCHOOL TEAM TOMORROW, PAPA. I'M GOING TO SHOW COACH KUNITZ THAT I'M A BIG LEAGUER RIGHT NOW!

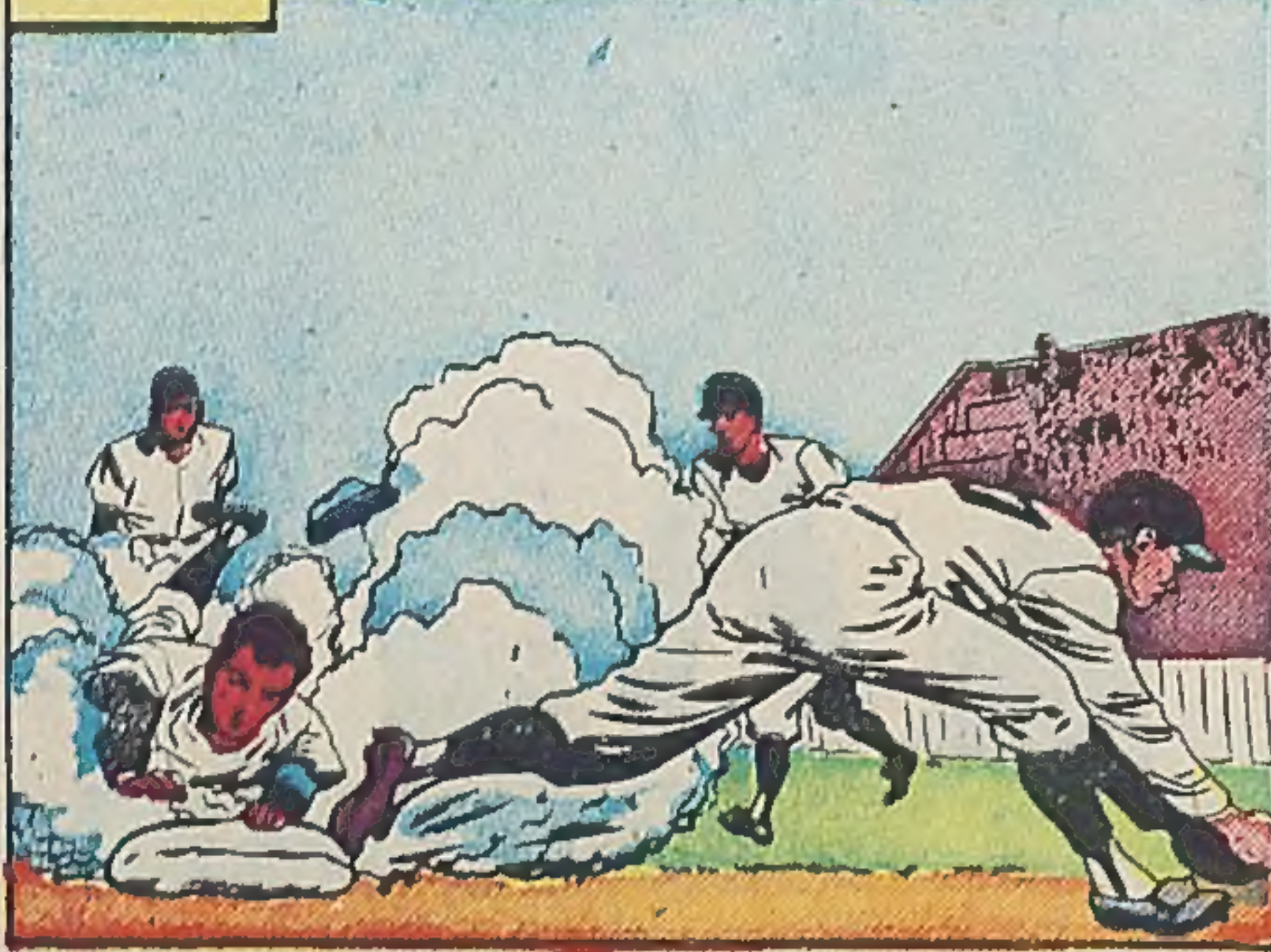
THAT'S THE SPIRIT, PHIL. A LITTLE MAN, IF HE'S GOOD, CAN PLAY RINGS AROUND A BIG FELLOW. I PLAYED BASEBALL IN MY DAY AND I KNOW.



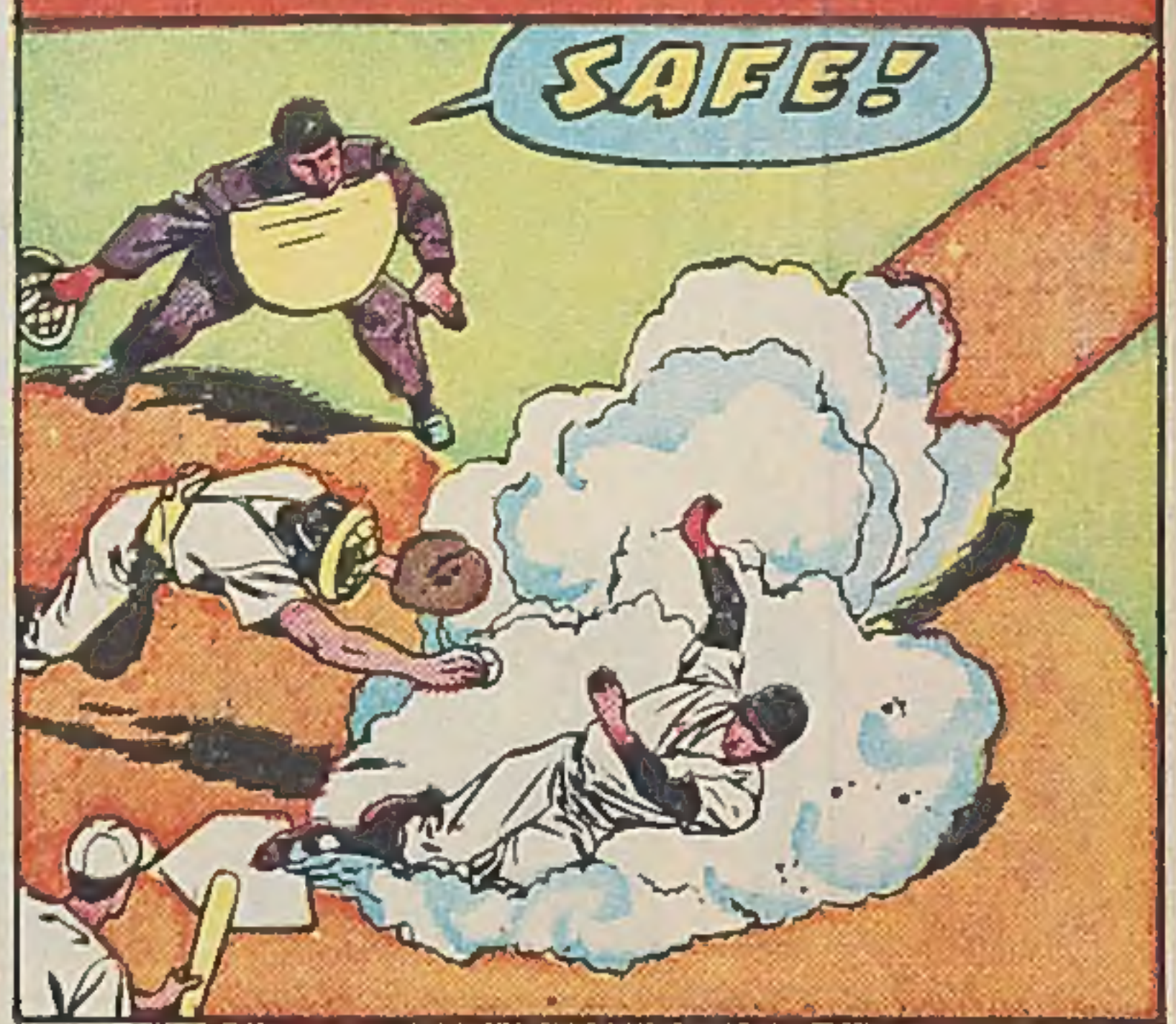


# PHIL RIZZUTO, BASEBALL HERO

**T**HE NEXT DAY, IN HIS FIRST TIME AT BAT IN THE PRACTICE GAME, PHIL WALKED, STOLE SECOND AND THIRD!



THEN, ON THE NEXT PITCH, PHIL WHIZZED DOWN THE THIRD BASE LINE, AND...



PLAYING LEFT FIELD THAT DAY, PHIL MADE A SENSATIONAL CATCH OF A BALL FAR OVER HIS HEAD!



PHIL WALKED IN THE THIRD AND STOLE SECOND! BUT HE FANNED IN HIS TWO OTHER TIMES AT BAT!



I'M PUTTING YOU ON THE TEAM, PHIL. YOUR JOB WILL BE TO COLLECT BASES ON BALLS AND TO STEAL. I DON'T WANT YOU TO SWING AT A PITCHED BALL UNLESS THE COUNT IS TWO AND NOTHING! LATER ON, WE'LL TRY TO MAKE YOU A GOOD HITTER.



**I**N PHIL'S FIRST SIX GAMES ON THE SCHOOL TEAM HE WALKED EIGHTEEN TIMES AND STOLE TWENTY-TWO BASES! BUT HIS BATTING AVERAGE WAS .000!

HOLY COW! I WISH I COULD GET A BASE HIT!





# PHIL RIZZUTO, BASEBALL HERO

**I**N A GAME AGAINST ERASMUS HIGH, THE COUNT WENT TO TWO STRIKES AND NO BALLS AGAINST PHIL. REMEMBERING COACH KUNITZ'S ADVICE, HE SWUNG AT THE BALL, FOULING IT BACK!

OW!

IT WAS PHIL'S FIRST CONTACT WITH A PITCHED BALL THAT SEASON!

LOOKS LIKE I'LL HAVE TO GIVE YOU THAT BATTING LESSON, PHIL. REPORT ON THE DIAMOND SATURDAY MORNING.

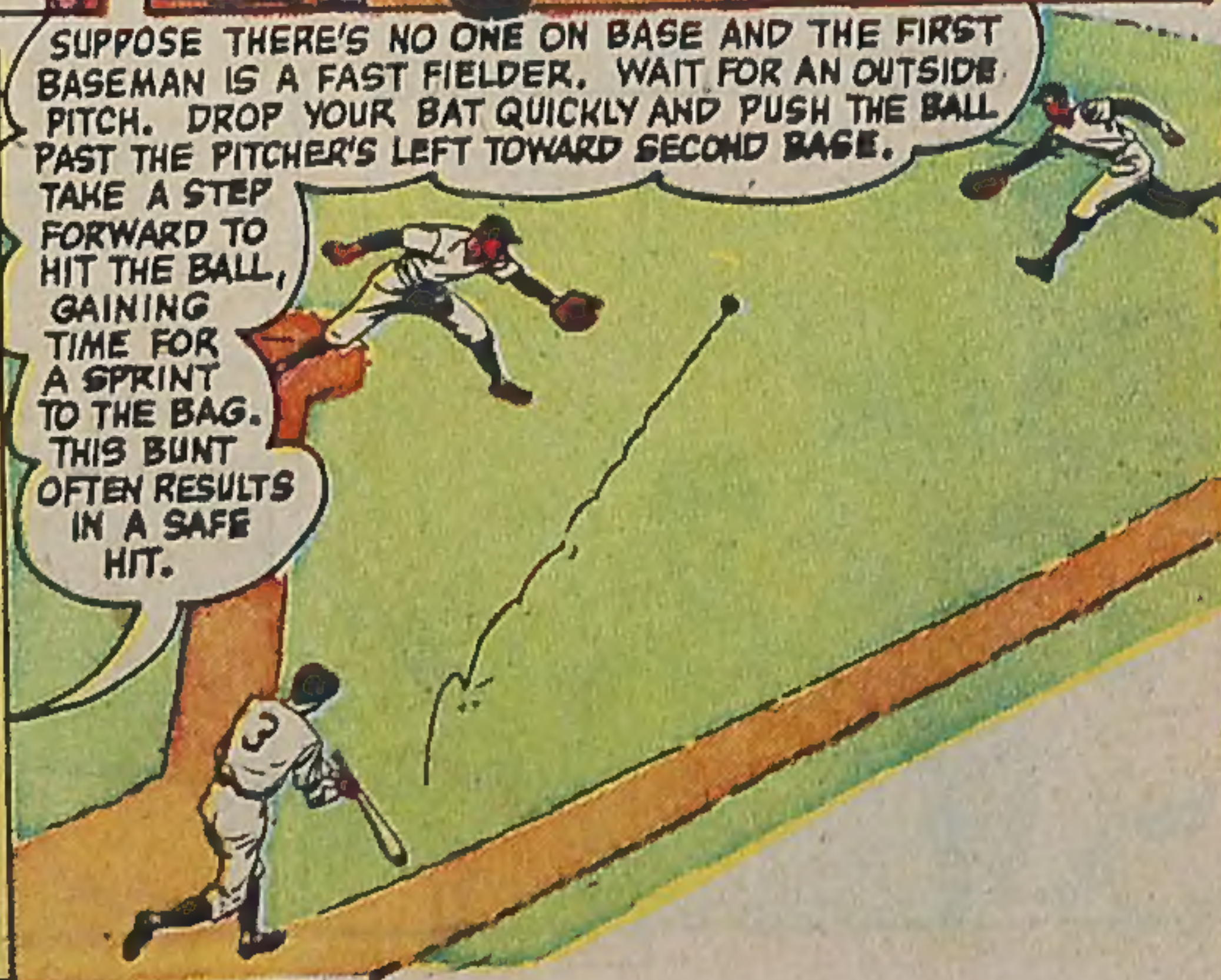
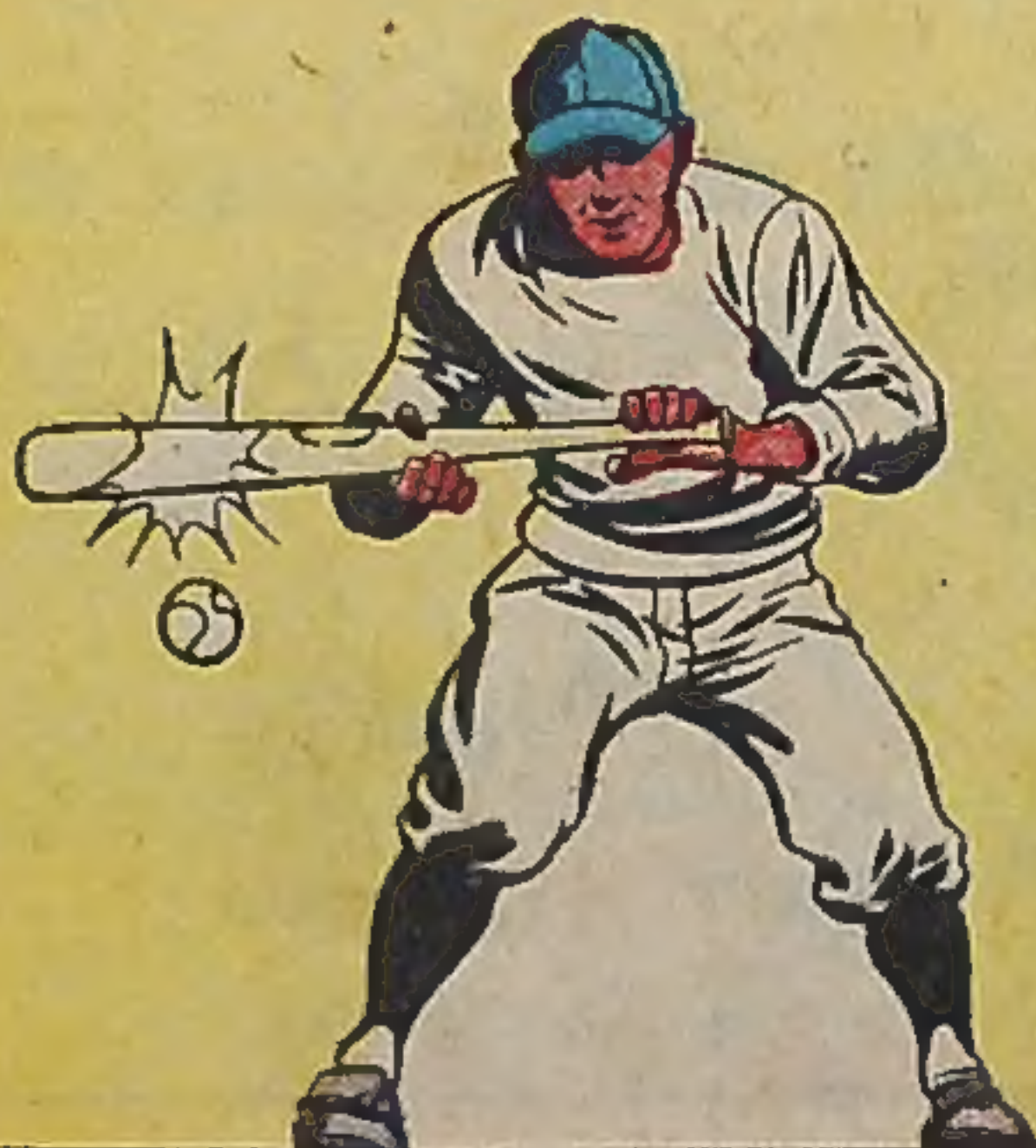
I'LL BE THERE, COACH.

THAT SATURDAY, PHIL GOT HIS FIRST POINTERS ON HOW TO BUNT AND HIT!

YOU'RE A NATURAL BUNTER, PHIL! HOLD YOUR BAT LOOSELY BUT IN THE NORMAL HITTING POSITION, SO AS NOT TO TIP OFF THE FIELDERS!

FIRST HE LEARNED THE PUSH BUNT!

SUPPOSE THERE'S NO ONE ON BASE AND THE FIRST BASEMAN IS A FAST FIELDER. WAIT FOR AN OUTSIDE PITCH. DROP YOUR BAT QUICKLY AND PUSH THE BALL PAST THE PITCHER'S LEFT TOWARD SECOND BASE. TAKE A STEP FORWARD TO HIT THE BALL, GAINING TIME FOR A SPRINT TO THE BAG. THIS BUNT OFTEN RESULTS IN A SAFE HIT.





**THEN, THE SACRIFICE BUNT!**

WITH A MAN ON FIRST AND THE BUNT SIGN ON, DRAG THE BAT IN A SWEEPING MOTION DOWN AND TOWARD THE FOUL LINE. THE BALL SHOULD TRICKLE IN THAT DIRECTION IN SAFE TERRITORY. IF YOU PLACE IT RIGHT, YOU MAY BEAT IT OUT. IN ANY EVENT, IT SHOULD FALL IN A POSITION WHICH

WILL ADVANCE THE RUNNER TO SECOND.



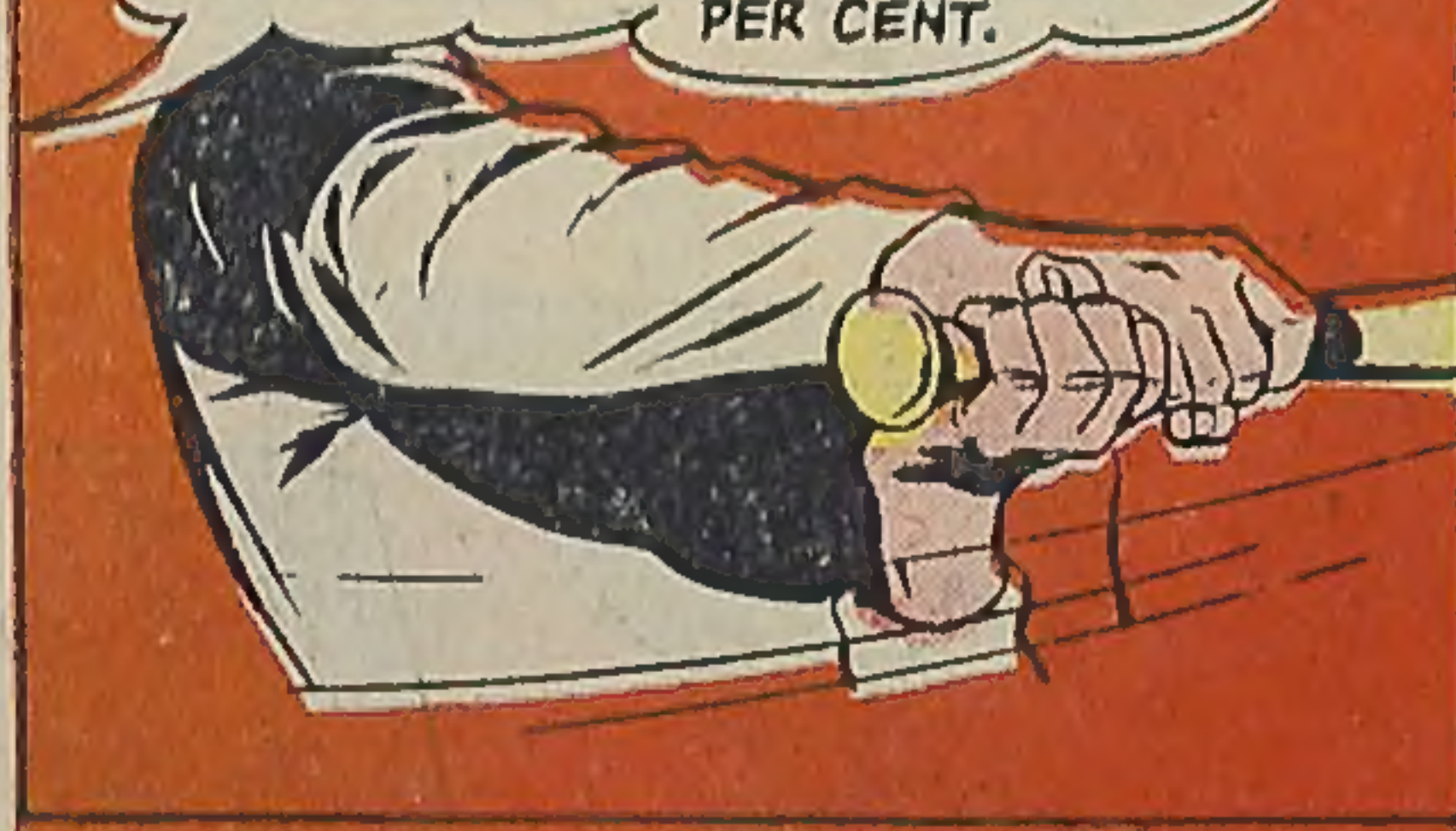
**THE DEADFALL BUNT!**

HOLD THE BAT LOOSELY. IF YOU HOLD IT TIGHTLY, YOU'LL HIT THE BALL TOO HARD AND POP IT UP OR LINE IT TO INFELDERS. MEET THE BALL TOWARD THE END OF THE BAT WITH A TWIST OF THE WRIST, WHICH GIVES IT BACKSPIN AND DEADENS IT. THE BALL SHOULD HIT THE GRASS AND STOP ROLLING AS YOU RACE TO FIRST.



**THE LINE DRIVE!**

A GOOD LITTLE MAN CAN HIT AS WELL AS A POWERFUL SLUGGER, ALTHOUGH NOT AS FAR. WAIT FOR THE BALL TO COME UP TO YOU. DON'T LUNGE FOR IT. TRY TO HIT WHERE IT'S PITCHED. IF ON THE OUTSIDE, POKE TO RIGHT. IF ON THE INSIDE, LINE TO LEFT AND CLOSE TO FOUL LINES. QUICKLY BREAK YOUR WRISTS AND YOU'LL INCREASE YOUR POWER ONE HUNDRED PER CENT.



**HITTING BEHIND THE RUNNER!**

WITH A MAN ON FIRST AND THE HIT-AND-RUN SIGN ON, WATCH FOR AN OUTSIDE PITCH TO HIT BEHIND THE RUNNER. IF THE PITCHER THROWS INSIDE, STEP BACK, MOVE YOUR RIGHT FOOT BACK OF THE LEFT FOOT. HOLD YOUR ELBOWS CLOSE TO YOUR BODY. MEET BALL WITH GOLF SWING AND WRIST SNAP TOWARD RIGHT FIELD.



DAY AFTER DAY, HOUR BY HOUR, PHIL PRACTICED BATTING!

YOU'RE A GOOD PUPIL, PHIL. YOU'RE GOING FAR IN BASEBALL!

I LOVE THE GAME, COACH!



SHIFTING FROM THE OUTFIELD TO THIRD BASE IN HIS SOPHOMORE YEAR, PHIL BECAME A SHORTSTOP THE FOLLOWING SEASON!

SOME STOP! THAT KID'S A WONDER!





# PHIL RIZZUTO, BASEBALL HERO

AT THE END OF THE YEAR...

I NOMINATE PHIL RIZZUTO, THE FLEA, FOR OUR CAPTAIN!

YEA, RIZZUTO! LET'S MAKE IT UNANIMOUS!

PHIL'S NEIGHBORHOOD CHUM WAS PUSKY MICKEY STEINMAN! IN THE FALL OF 1935...

YOU'LL MAKE THE FOOTBALL TEAM, TOO, PHIL. WHY, YOU'VE WON MOST OF OUR TOUCH FOOTBALL GAMES ON THIS STREET!

BUT I WEIGH ONLY A HUNDRED AND THIRTY POUNDS, MICKEY.

BEFORE THE SEASON STARTED, MICKEY AND PHIL SPENT LONG HOURS PRACTICING FORWARD PASSES!

I GOT IT!

THEN IN RICHMOND HILL'S BIG GAME AGAINST COMMERCE HIGH...

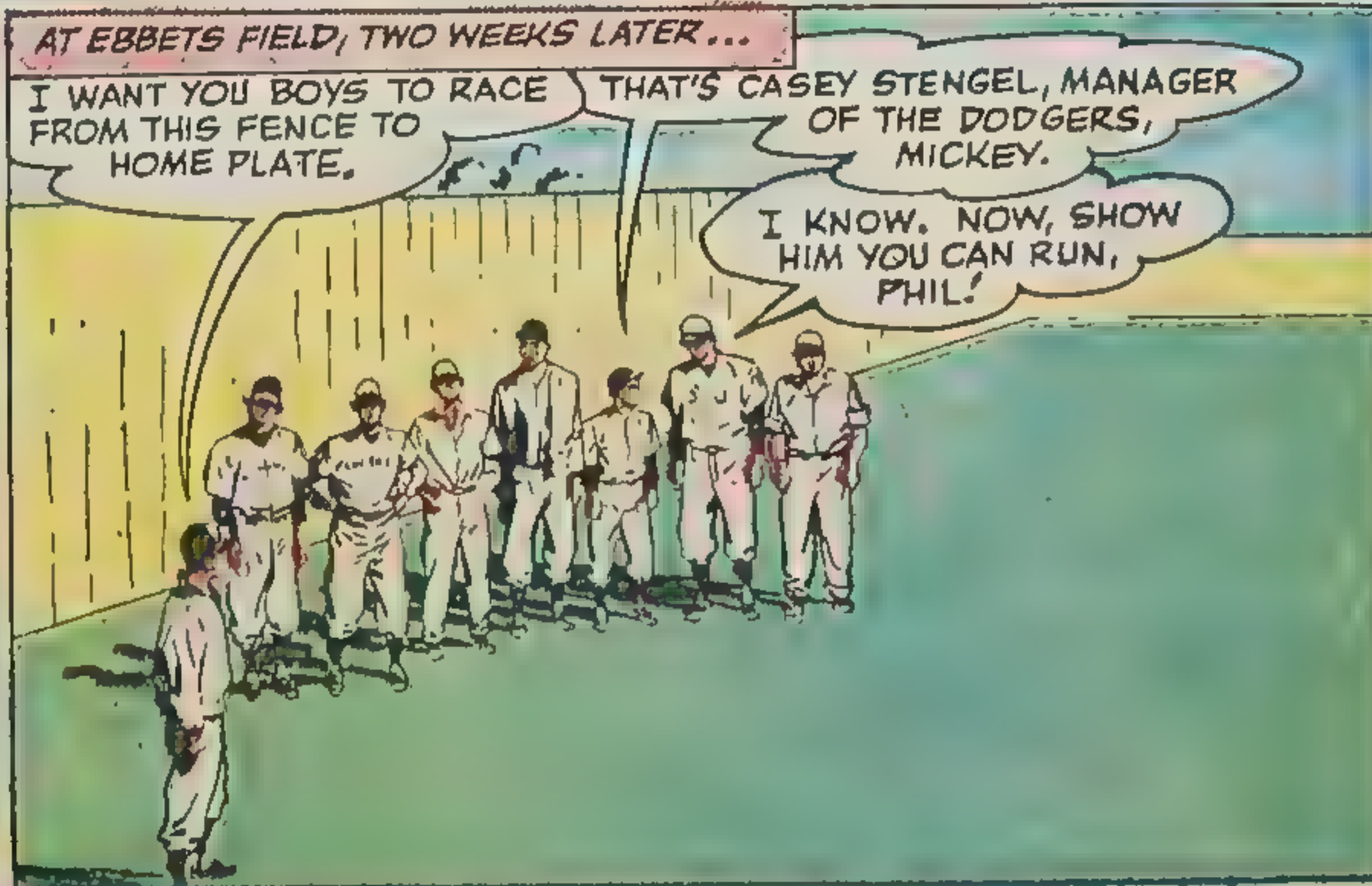
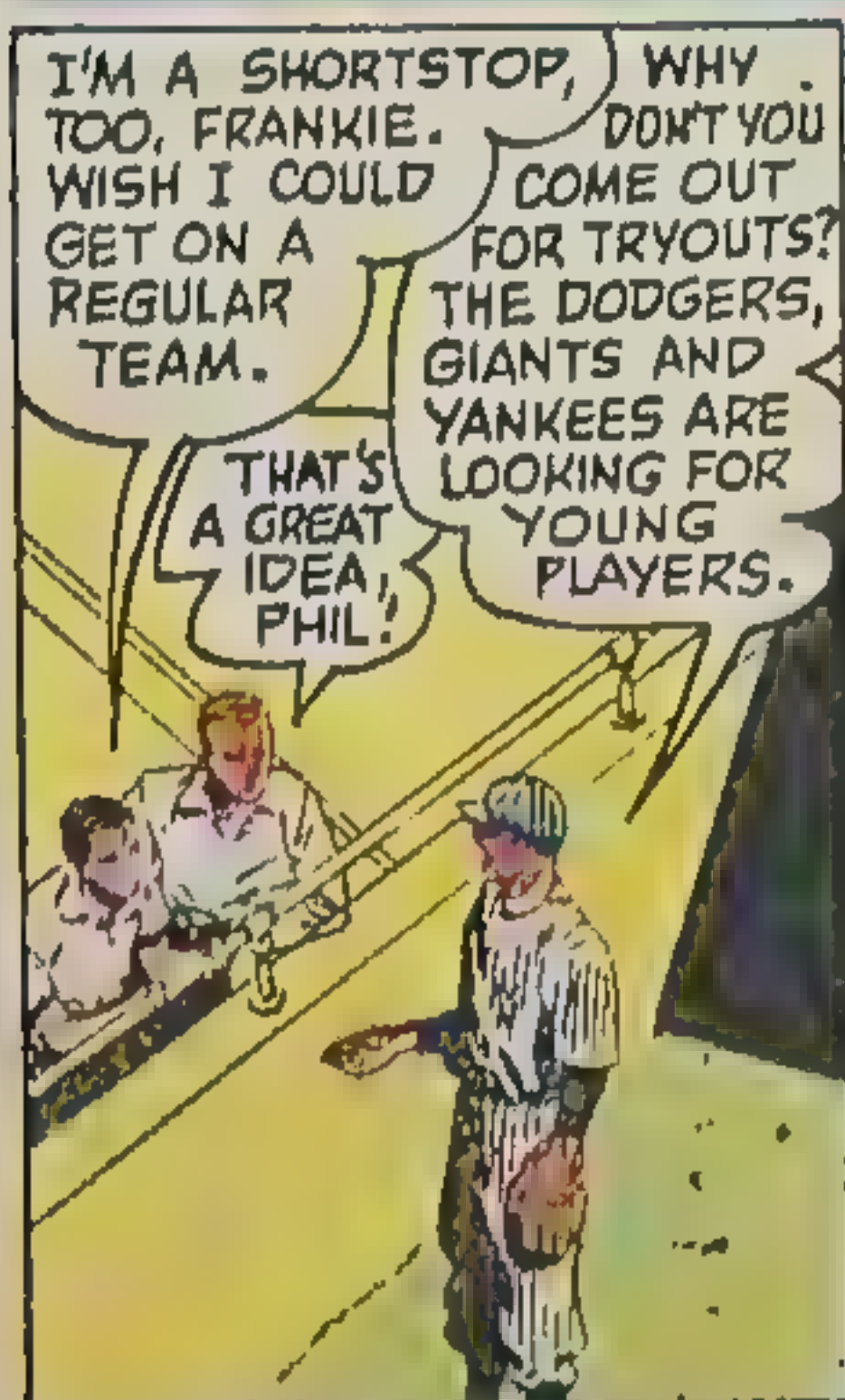
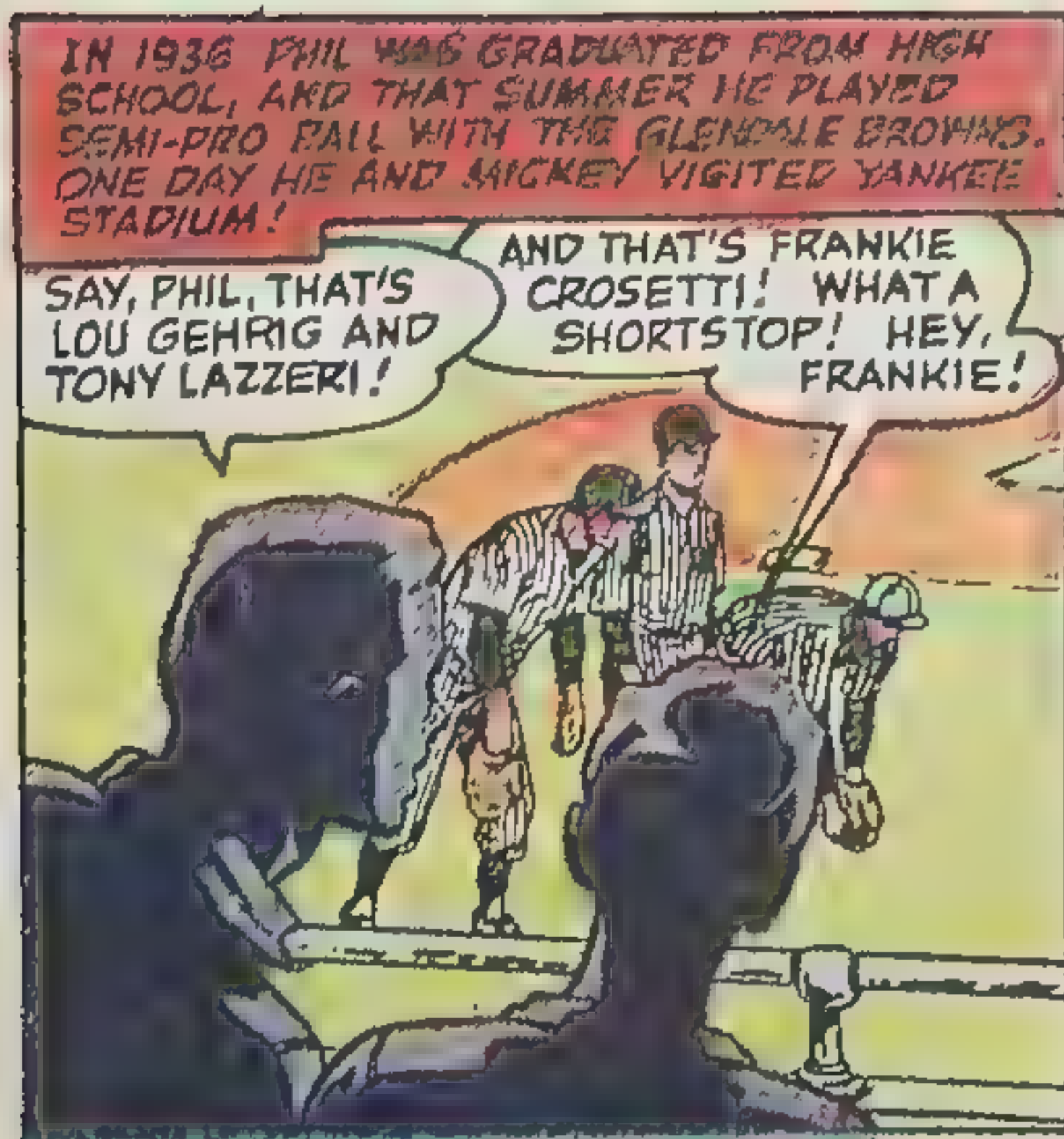
"PHIL GRABBED A STEINMAN PASS FROM A GIANT DEFENDER TWICE HIS SIZE!"

YEA, PHIL! HOORAY!

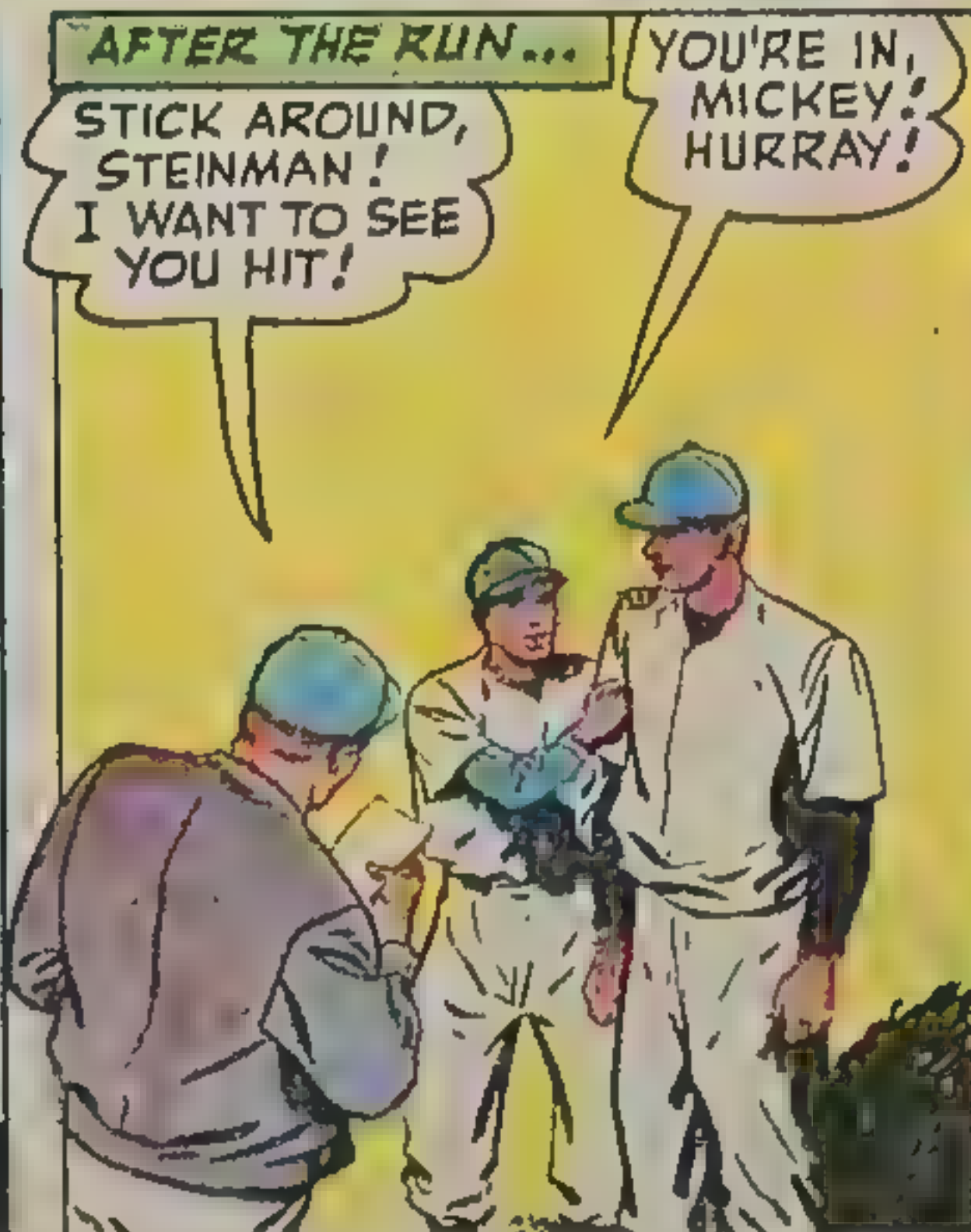
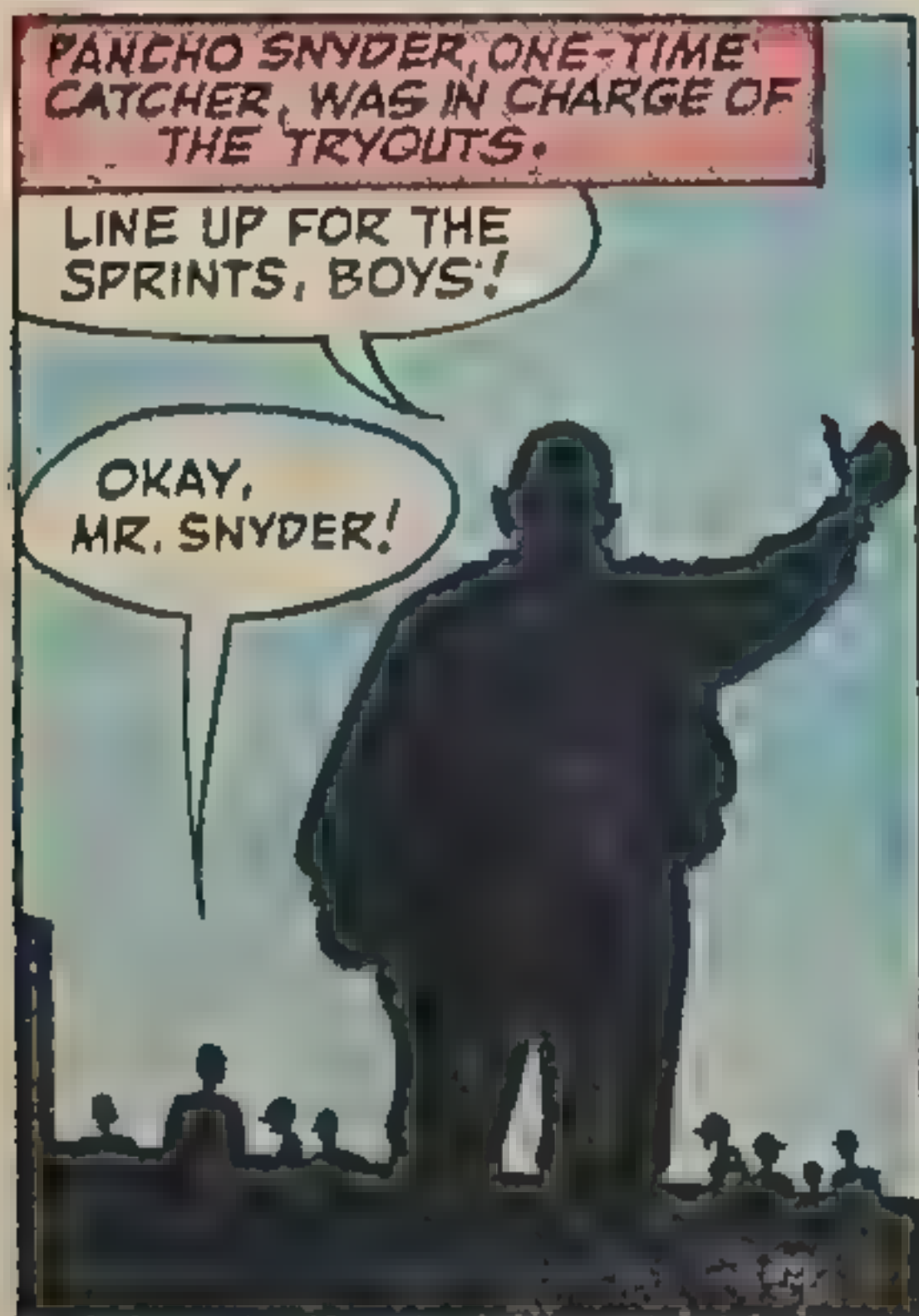
THE FLEA SCOOTED ACROSS THE GOAL LINE WITH THE TOUCHDOWN THAT LICKED COMMERCE, 14 TO 13!



# PHIL RIZZUTO, BASEBALL HERO





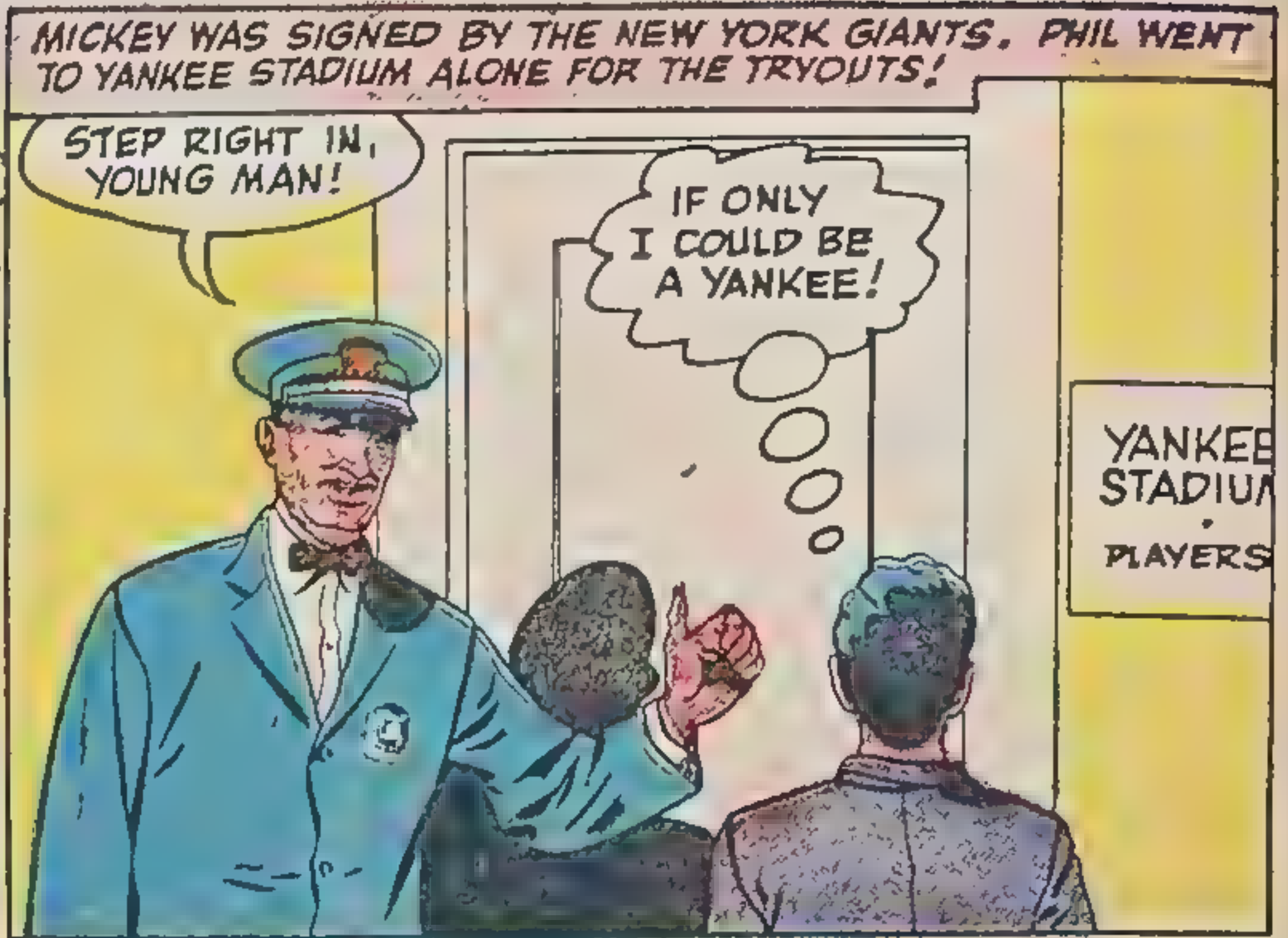






EIGHTEEN? DON'T TRY TO KID ME. YOU OUGHT TO BE HOME PLAYING WITH YOUR TOYS!

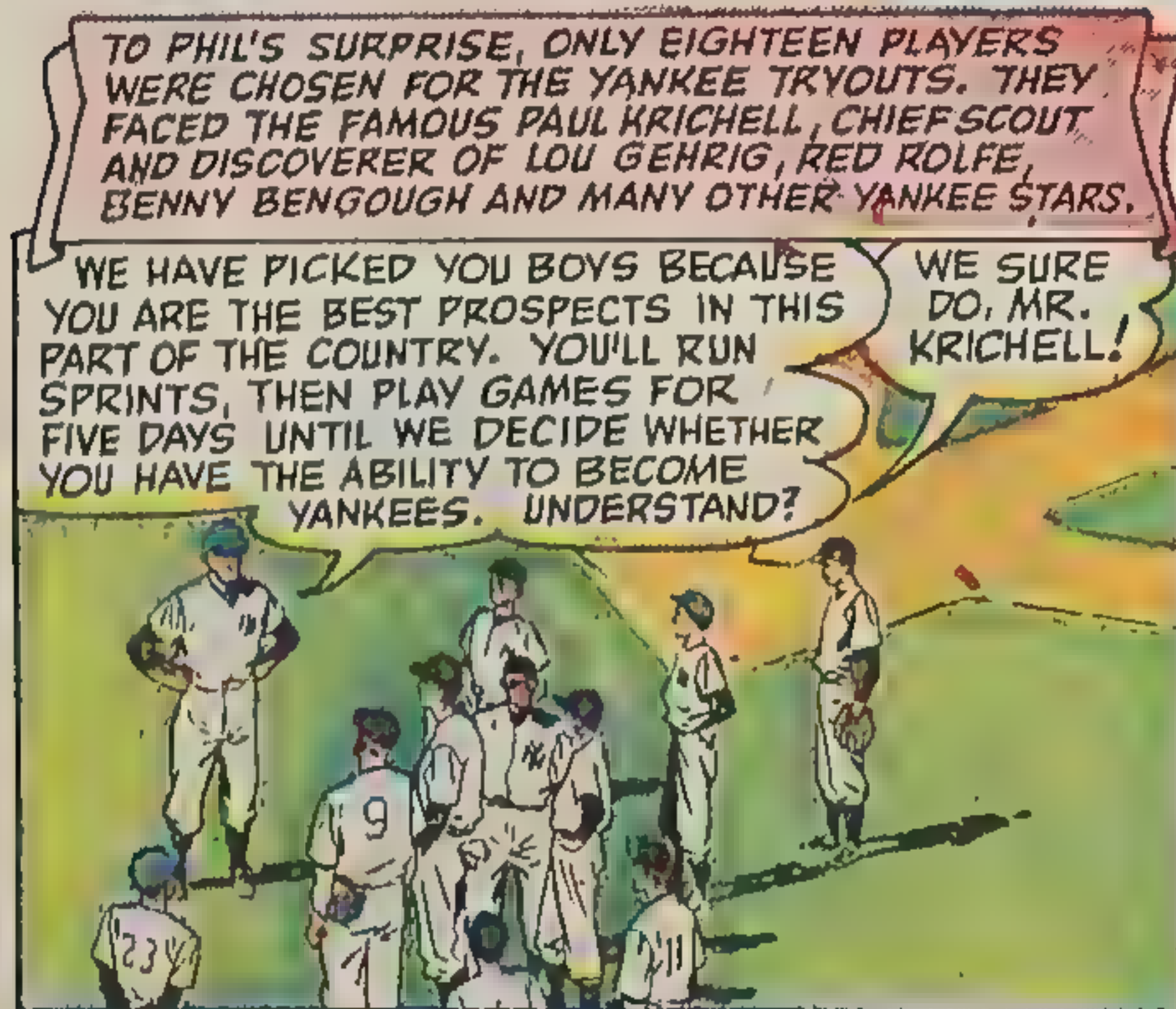
MY TOYS ARE A BAT, A BALL AND A GLOVE, MR. SNYDER!



STEP RIGHT IN, YOUNG MAN!

IF ONLY I COULD BE A YANKEE!

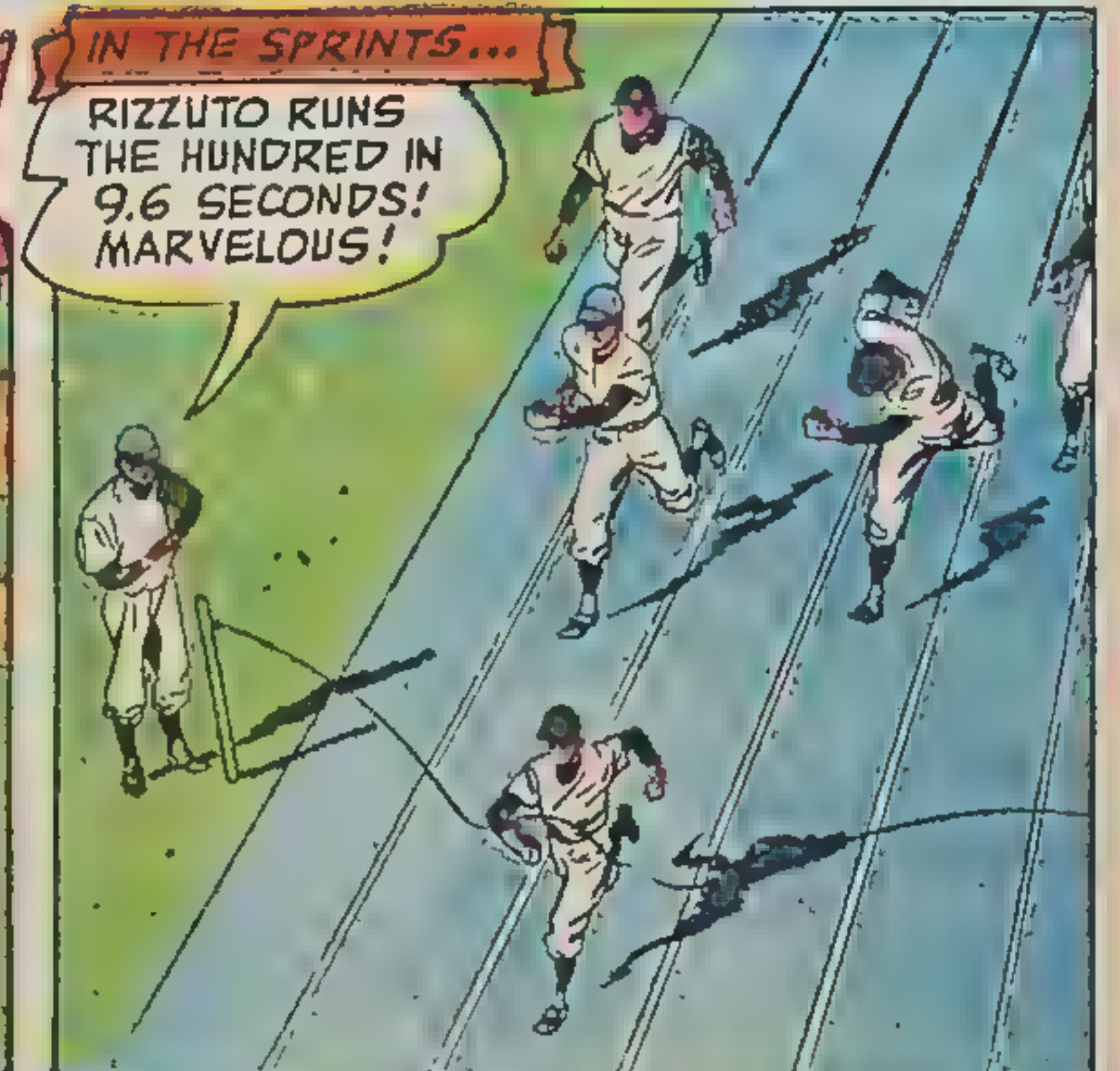
YANKEE STADIUM PLAYERS



TO PHIL'S SURPRISE, ONLY EIGHTEEN PLAYERS WERE CHOSEN FOR THE YANKEE TRYOUTS. THEY FACED THE FAMOUS PAUL KRICHELL, CHIEF SCOUT AND DISCOVERER OF LOU GEHRIG, RED ROLFE, BENNY BENGOUGH AND MANY OTHER YANKEE STARS.

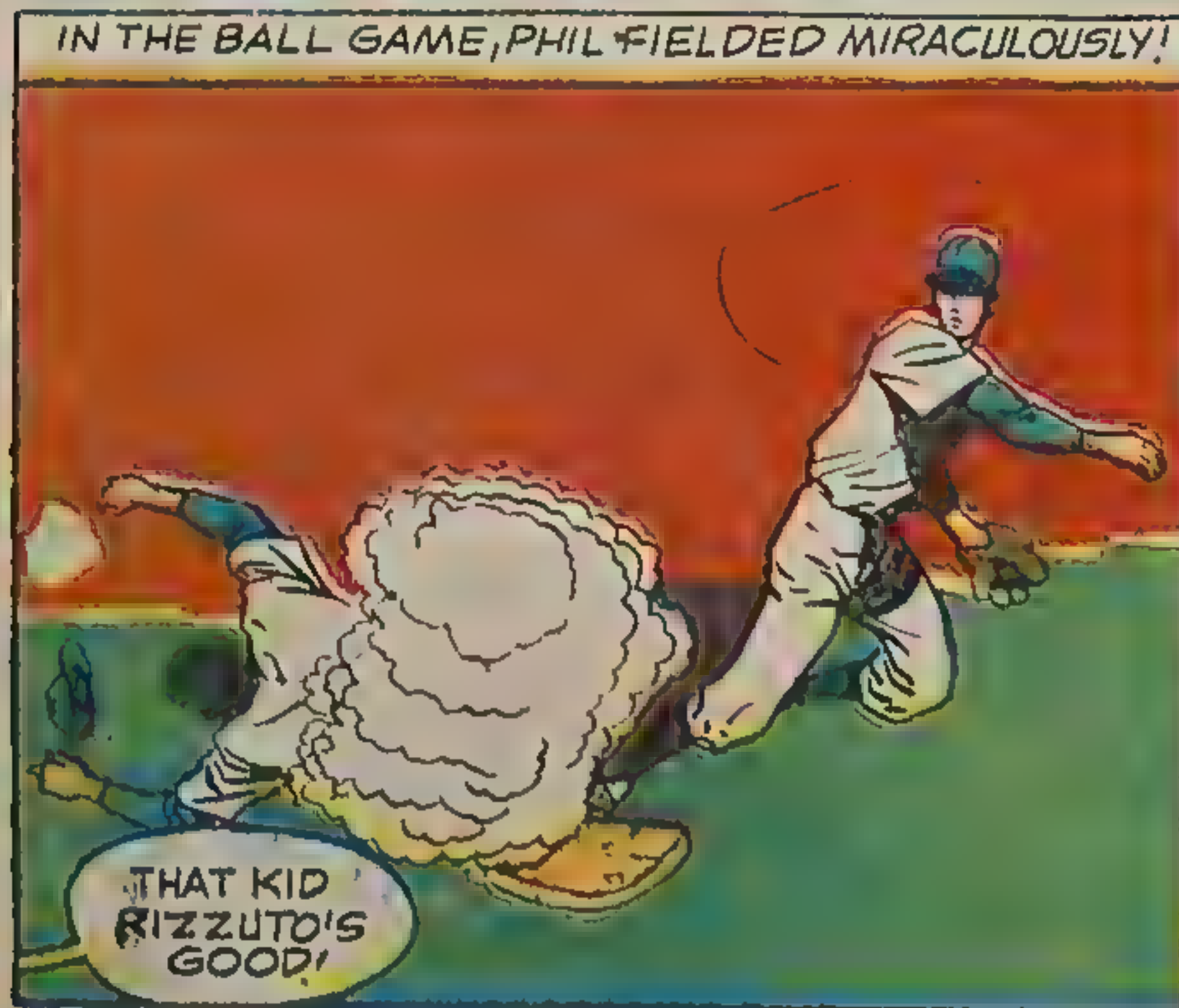
WE HAVE PICKED YOU BOYS BECAUSE YOU ARE THE BEST PROSPECTS IN THIS PART OF THE COUNTRY. YOU'LL RUN SPRINTS, THEN PLAY GAMES FOR FIVE DAYS UNTIL WE DECIDE WHETHER YOU HAVE THE ABILITY TO BECOME YANKEES. UNDERSTAND?

WE SURE DO, MR. KRICHELL!



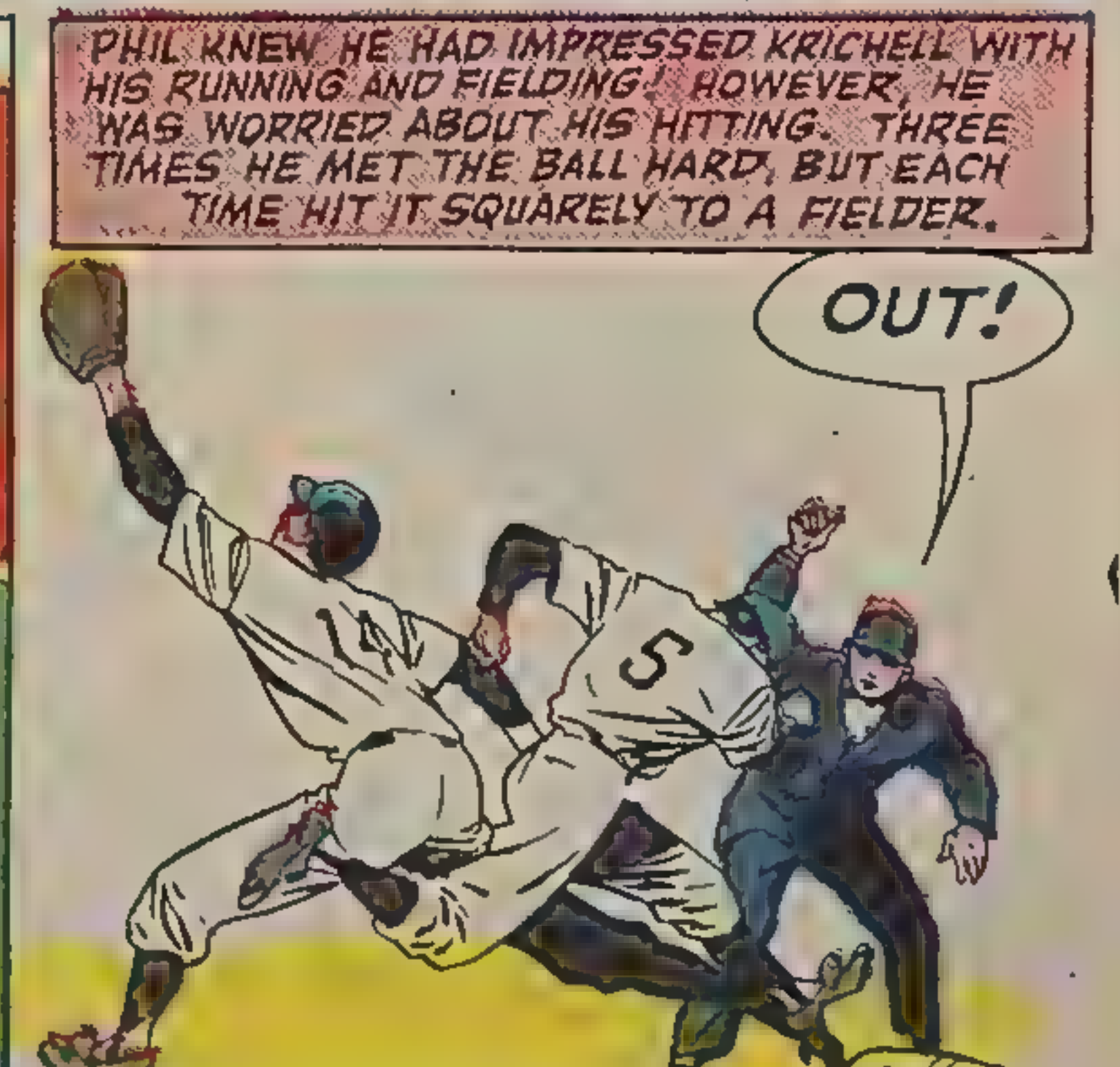
IN THE SPRINTS...

RIZZUTO RUNS THE HUNDRED IN 9.6 SECONDS! MARVELOUS!



IN THE BALL GAME, PHIL FIELDLED MIRACULOUSLY!

THAT KID RIZZUTO'S GOOD!



PHIL KNEW HE HAD IMPRESSED KRICHELL WITH HIS RUNNING AND FIELDING! HOWEVER, HE WAS WORRIED ABOUT HIS HITTING. THREE TIMES HE MET THE BALL HARD, BUT EACH TIME HIT IT SQUARELY TO A FIELDER.

OUT!



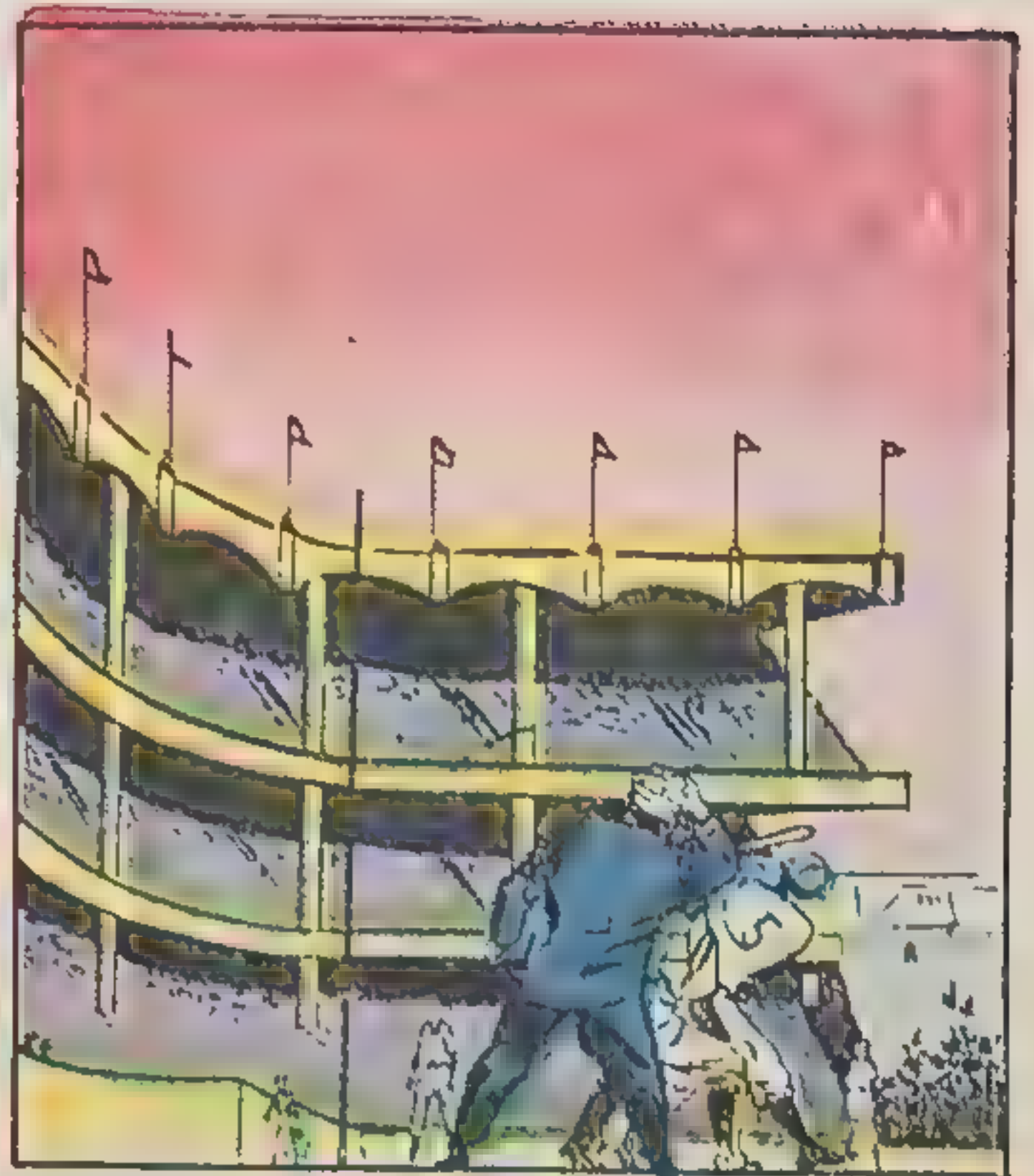
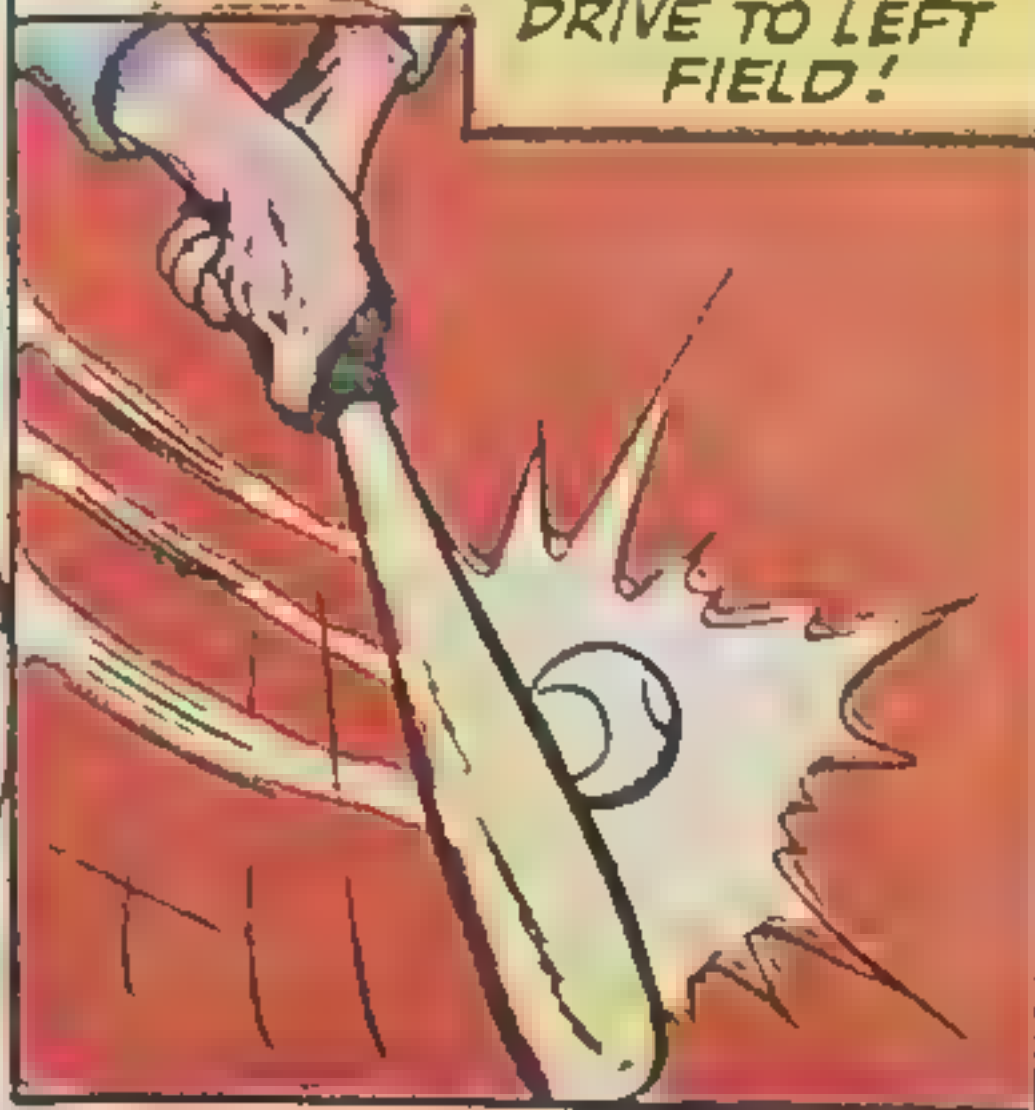
# PHIL RIZZUTO, BASEBALL HERO

AS THE GAME PROGRESSED...

THE BEST PROSPECT ON THE FIELD TODAY IS PHIL RIZZUTO!



DETERMINED TO MAKE A BASE HIT BEFORE THE GAME WAS OVER, PHIL TRIED TO REMEMBER EVERYTHING COACH KUNITZ HAD TAUGHT HIM AT HIGH SCHOOL. HE SNAPPED HIS WRISTS AS THE BAT MET THE BALL AND LASHED A LONG DRIVE TO LEFT FIELD!



GOING... GOING...

**GONE!**



A HOMER, PHIL!

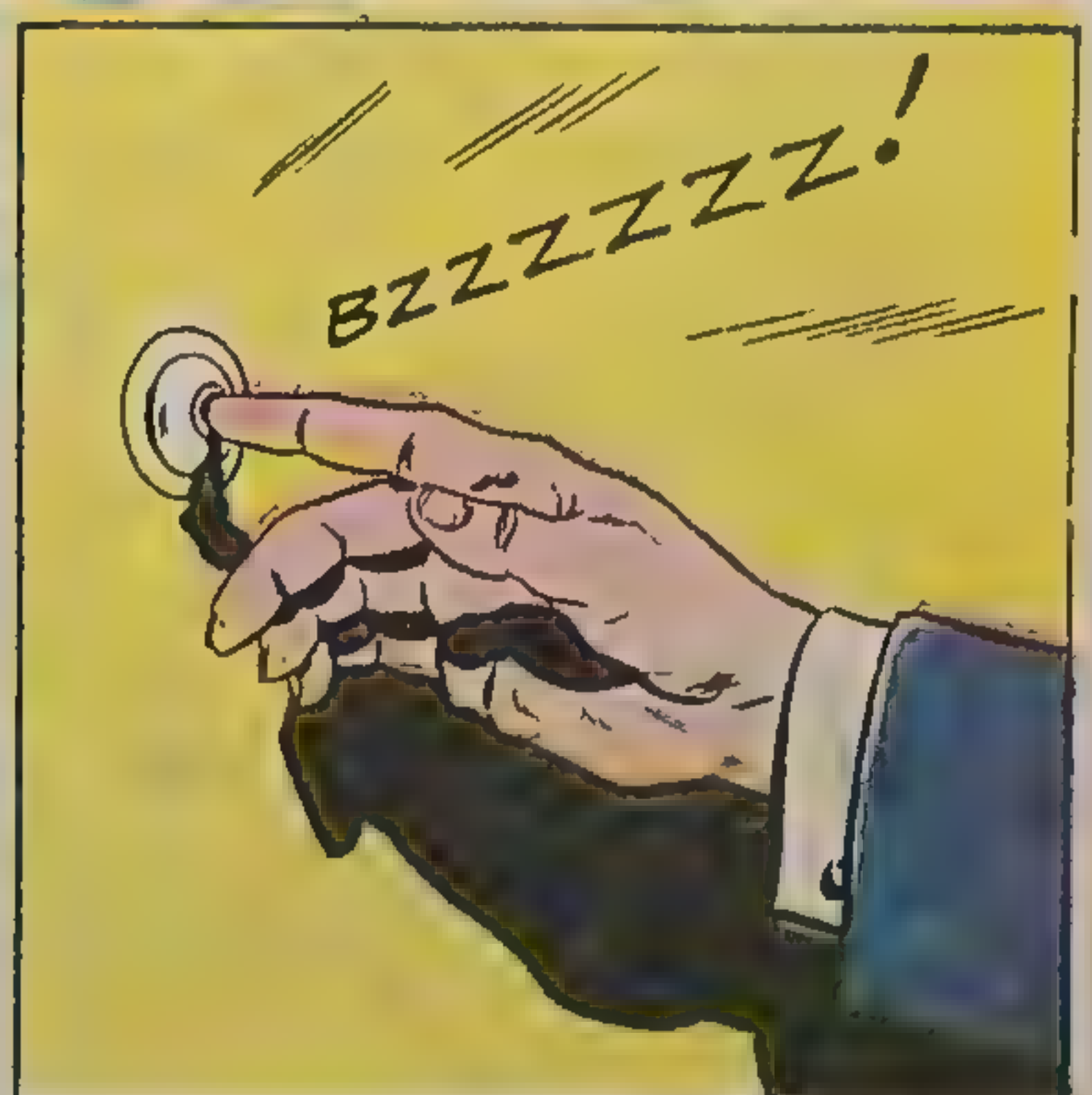
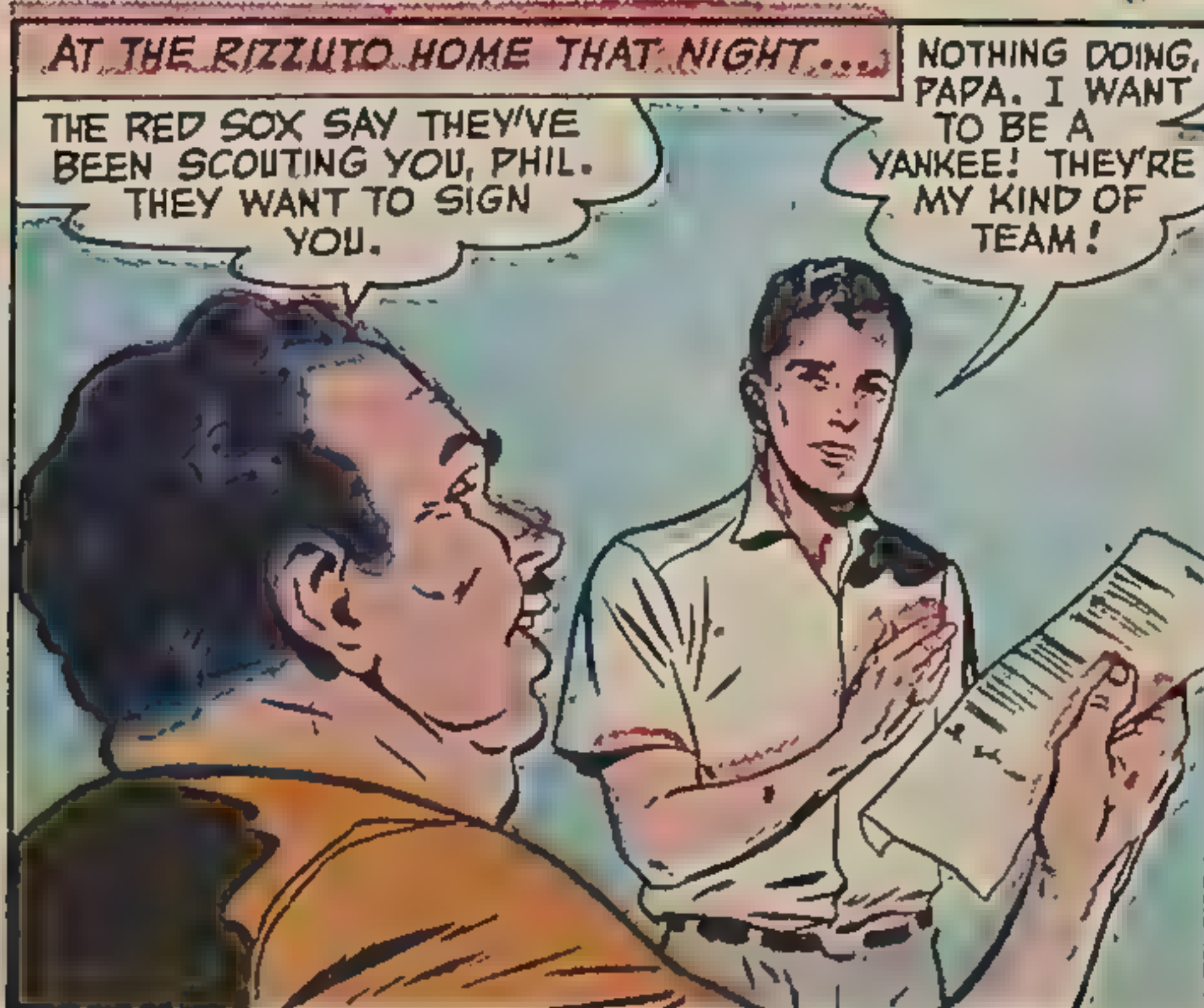
NEVER THOUGHT THAT SHRIMP COULD HIT THAT FAR!



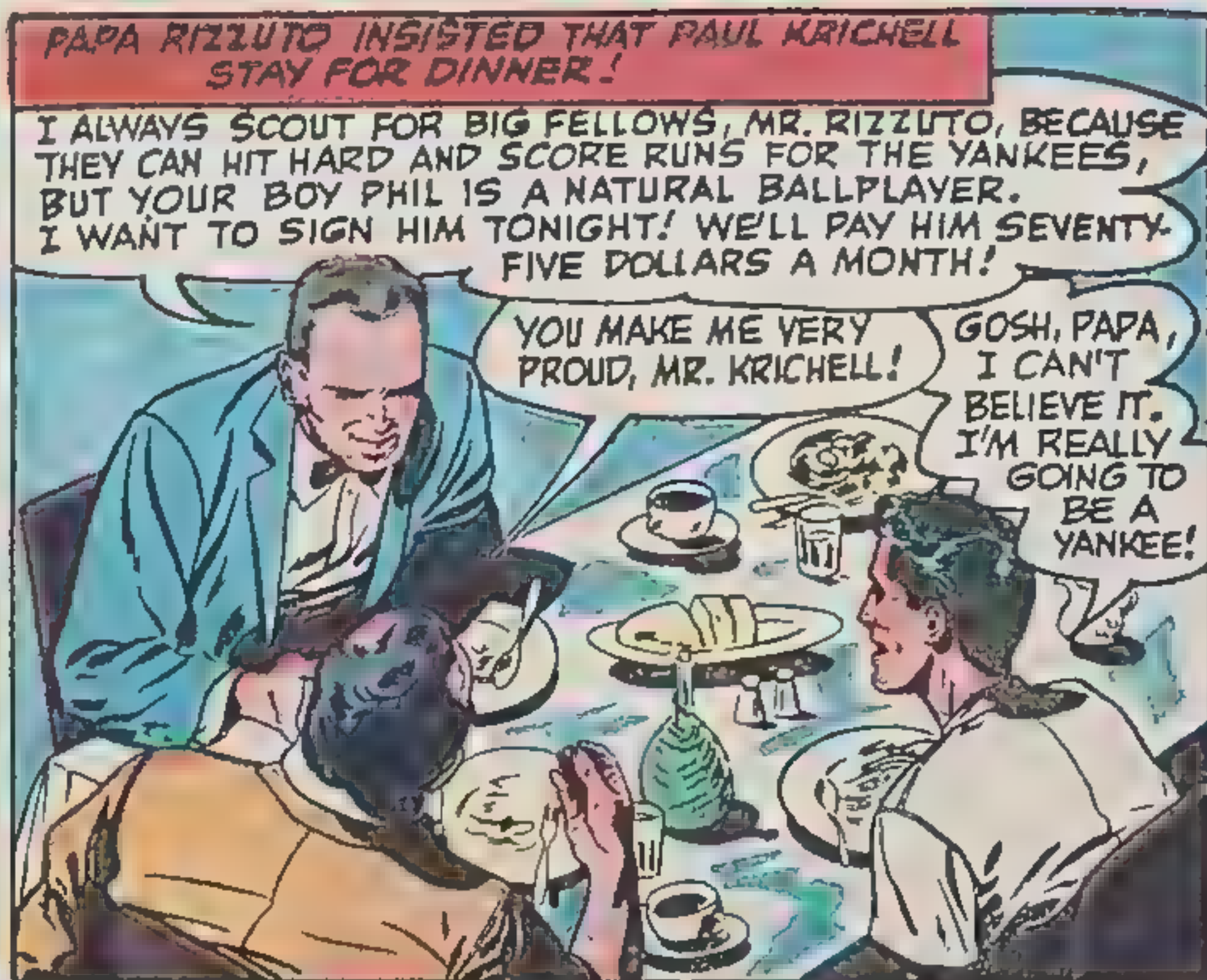
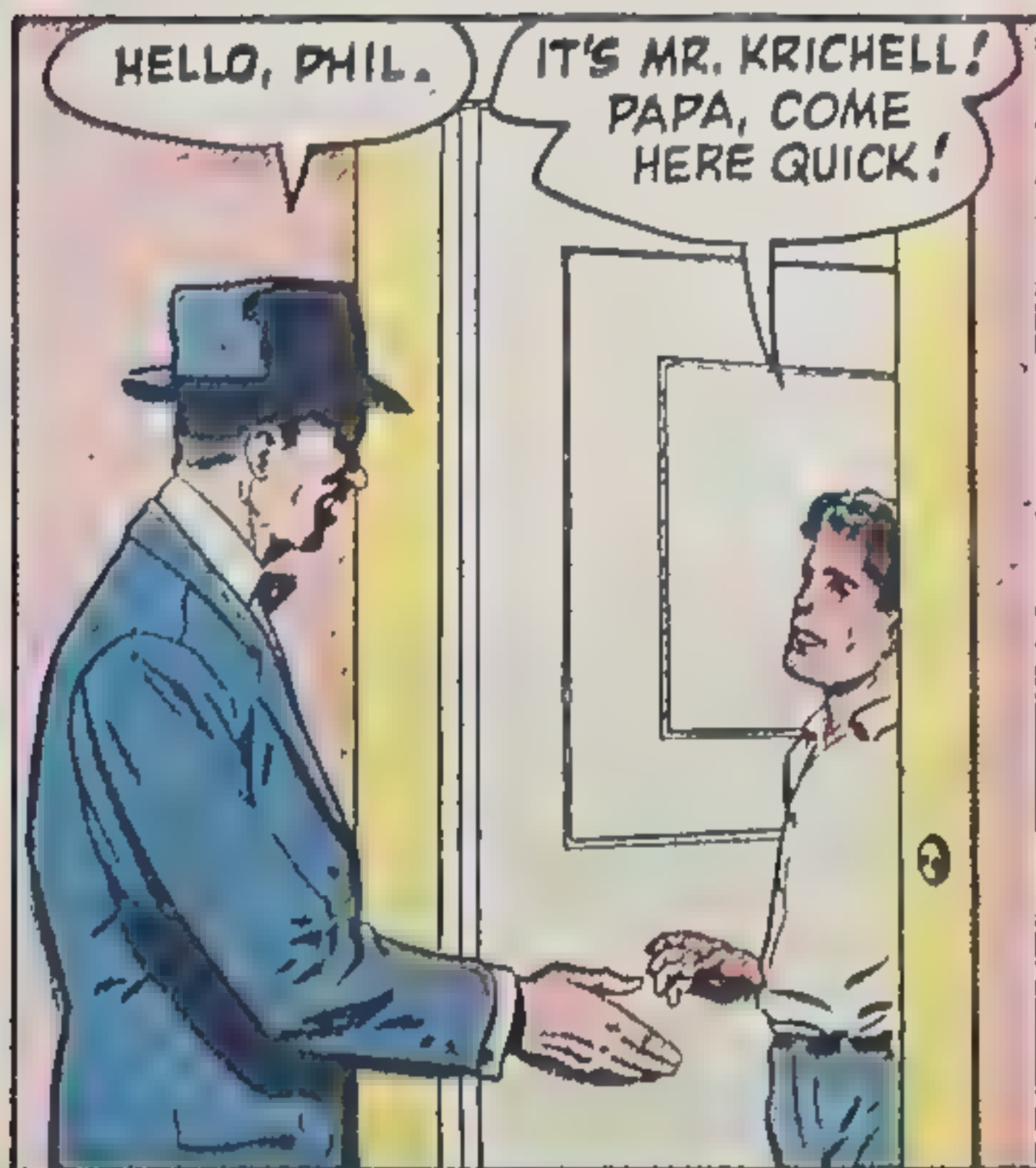
AT THE RIZZUTO HOME THAT NIGHT...

THE RED SOX SAY THEY'VE BEEN SCOUTING YOU, PHIL. THEY WANT TO SIGN YOU.

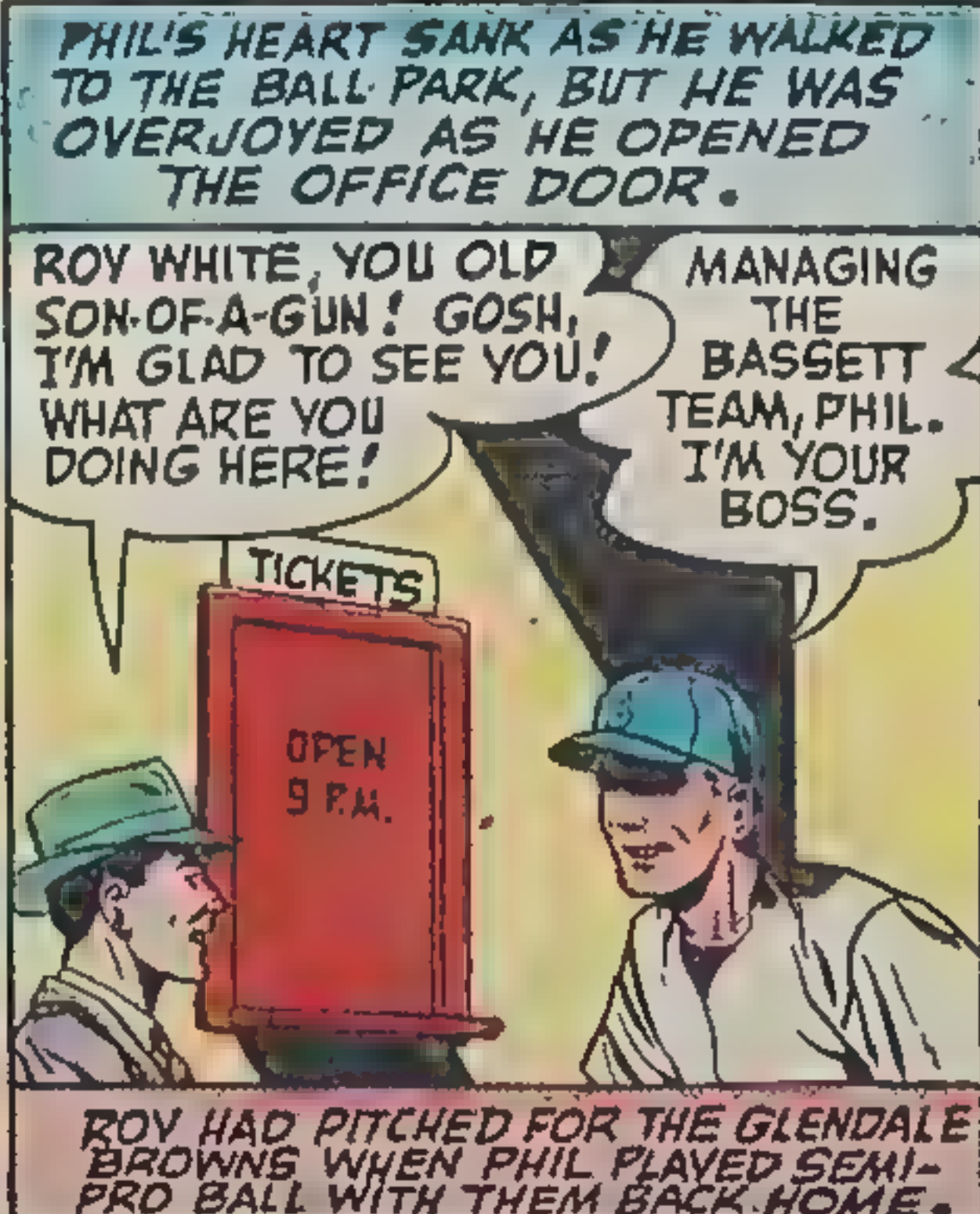
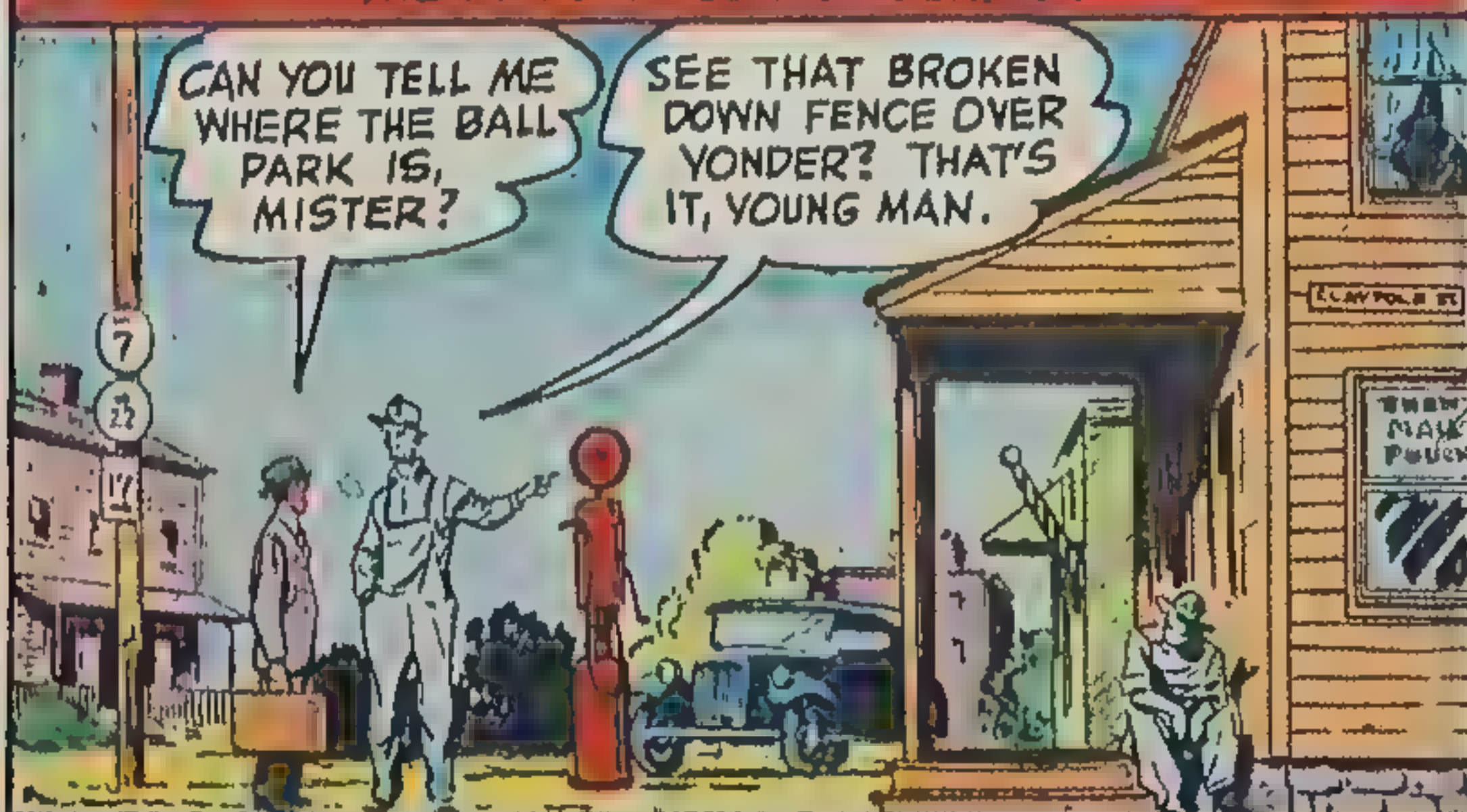
NOTHING DOING, PAPA. I WANT TO BE A YANKEE! THEY'RE MY KIND OF TEAM!



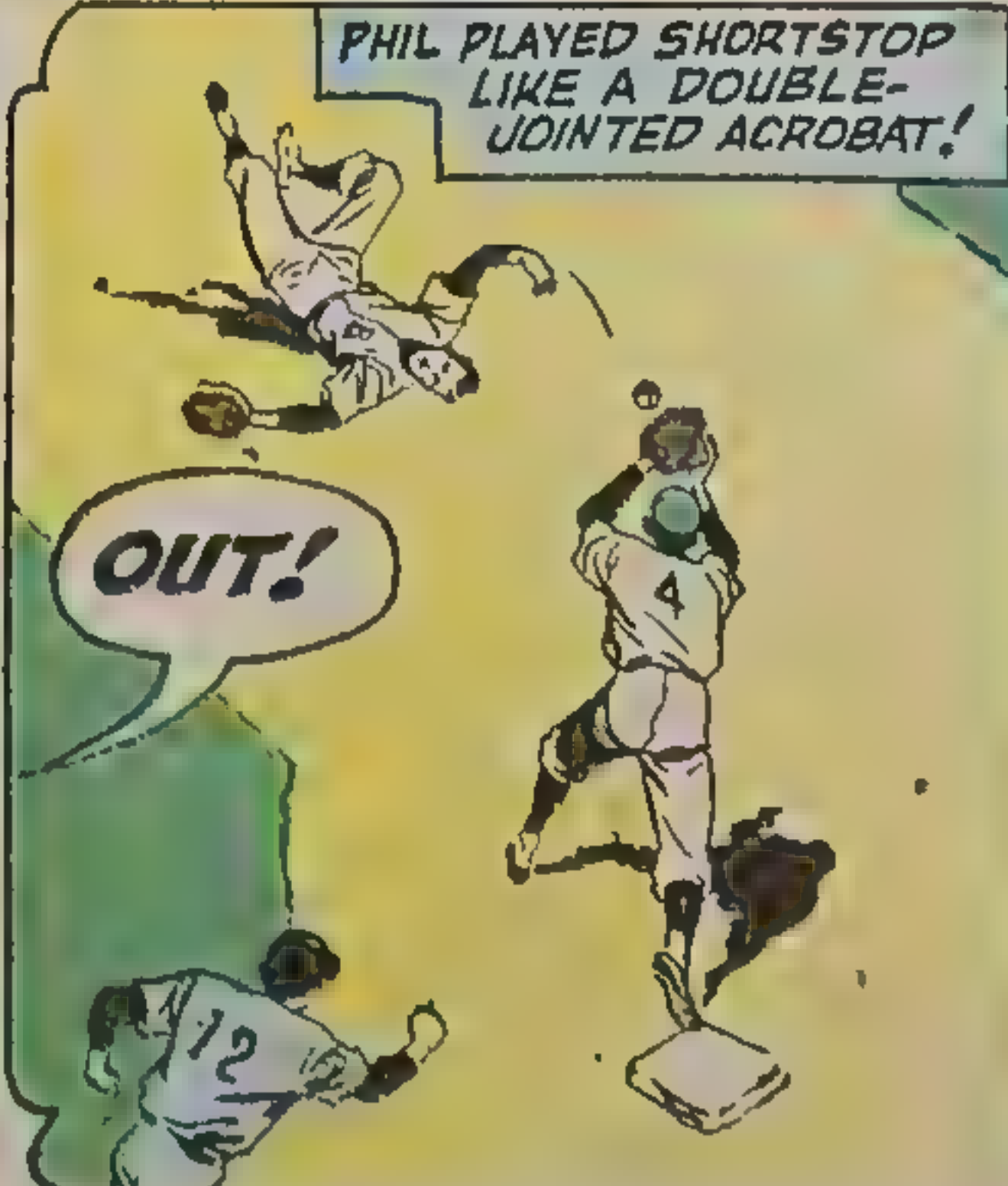




THAT WINTER PHIL WORKED ON ODD JOBS AT A FACTORY IN BAY RIDGE. IN MARCH HE LEFT HOME FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HIS LIFE, TRAVELING TO BASSETT, A TINY HAMLET IN VIRGINIA, WHERE A CLASS D YANKEE FARM TEAM OF THE BI-STATE LEAGUE PLAYED.



PHIL EASILY WON THE SHORTSTOP JOB. HE WAS HITTING HARD NOW, AND STEALING BASES AS EASILY AS IN THE OLD DAYS AT RICHMOND HILL HIGH!

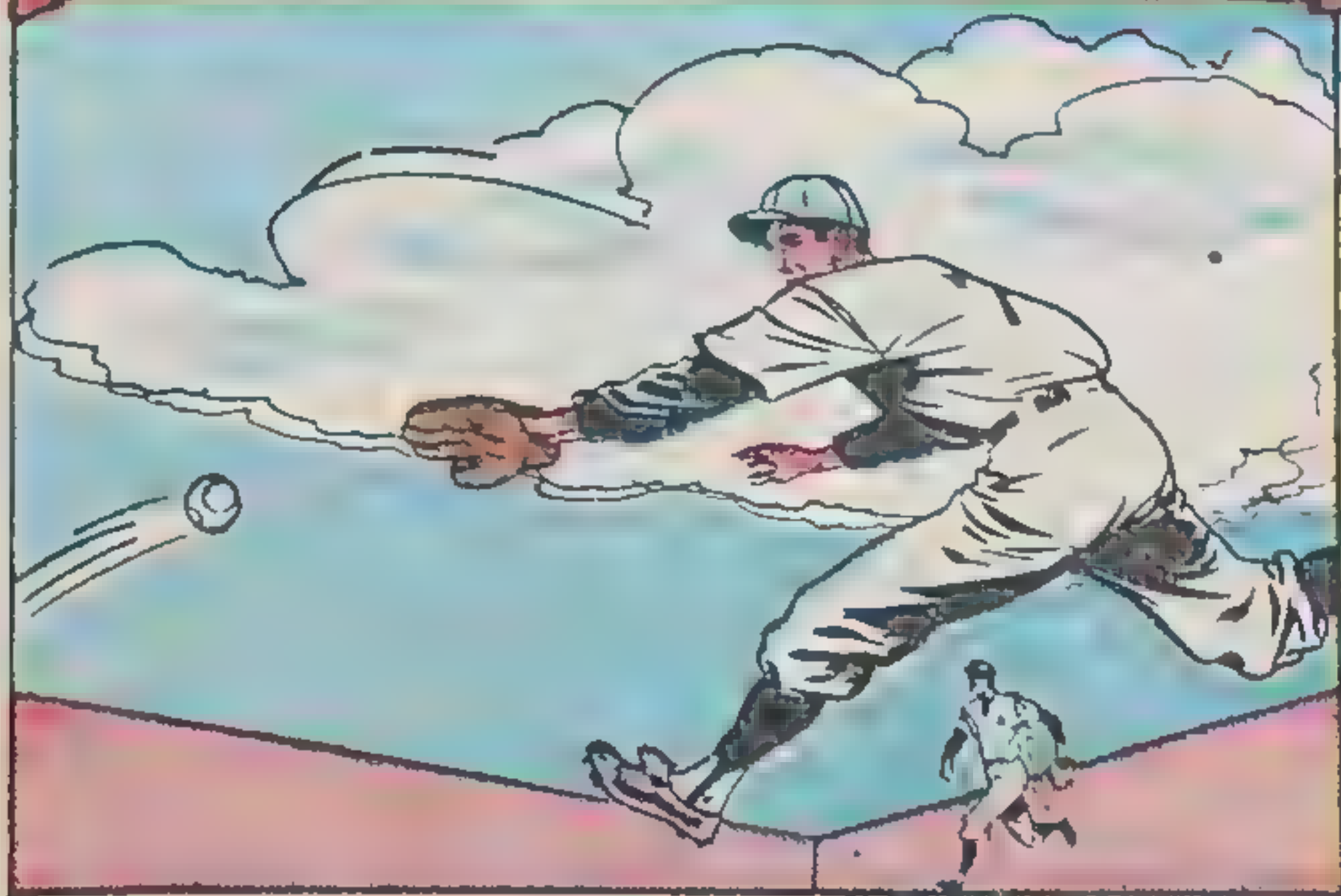


PHIL WAS SO HAPPY IN HIS NEW JOB THAT HE FORGOT ABOUT THE LONG TIRESOME BUS RIDES FROM TOWN TO TOWN, THE POOR MEALS, THE HARD ROOMING-HOUSE BED, THE ROCKY DIAMONDS ON WHICH HE PLAYED! ALL HE COULD THINK ABOUT WAS THE FACT THAT HE WAS ON HIS WAY TO BECOMING A YANKEE!



# PHIL RIZZUTO, BASEBALL HERO

PHIL WAS BATTING .350 IN LATE MAY AND FIELDING LIKE A WIZARD. ONE DAY, IN A GAME AGAINST ROANOKE, PHIL SPEARED A HARD-HIT GROUNDER!



HE SPRINTED FOR SECOND AS A RUNNER RACED IN!

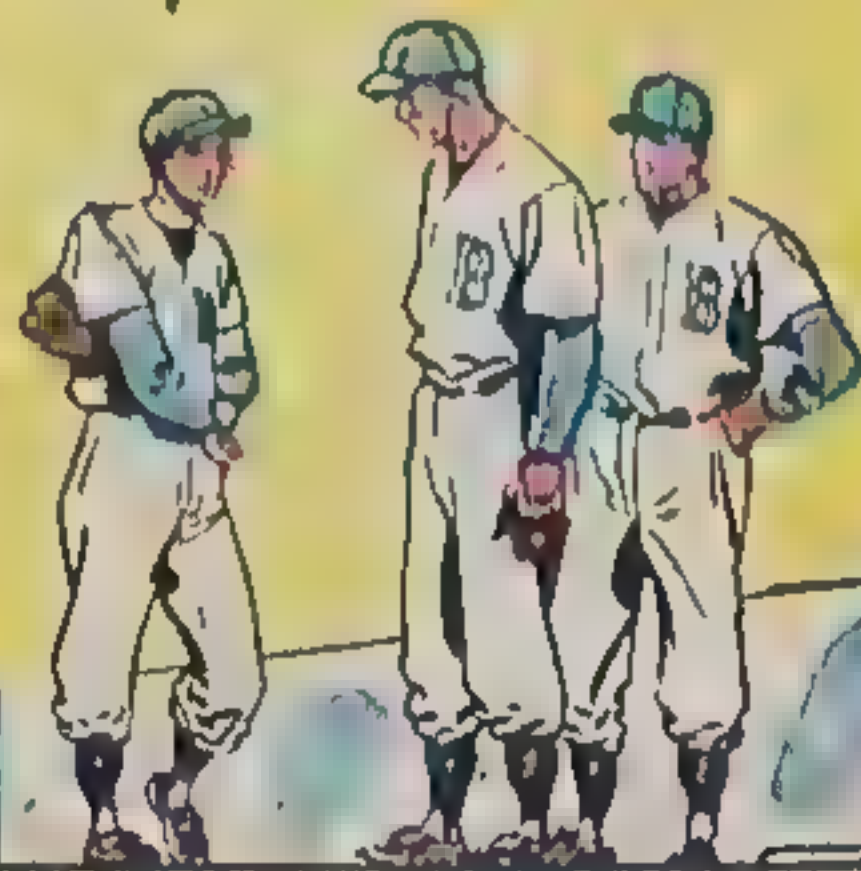


BUT PHIL TRIPPED IN FRONT OF THE BAG AND THE RUNNER'S SPIKES RIPPED INTO HIS LEFT LEG!



DESPITE THE PAIN IN HIS LEFT THIGH, PHIL INSISTED ON STAYING IN THE GAME.

MY LEG'S ALL RIGHT, I TELL YOU, ROY! BESIDES, YOU HAVEN'T ANYONE ELSE TO PLAY SHORT.



THE PAIN GREW WORSE... STILL PHIL CONTINUED TO PLAY DAY AFTER DAY.

IF THIS CLUB HAD A TRAINER, HE'D MAKE YOU STOP PLAYING, PHIL.



BY THE TIME PHIL'S TEAM ARRIVED IN ROANOKE, HE COULD HARDLY WALK.

YOU SHOULD HAVE KEPT OFF YOUR FEET, RIZZUTO. YOU HAD A BAD CUT AND NOW GANGRENE HAS SET IN. IF I DON'T OPERATE TODAY, YOU MAY LOSE YOUR LEG!

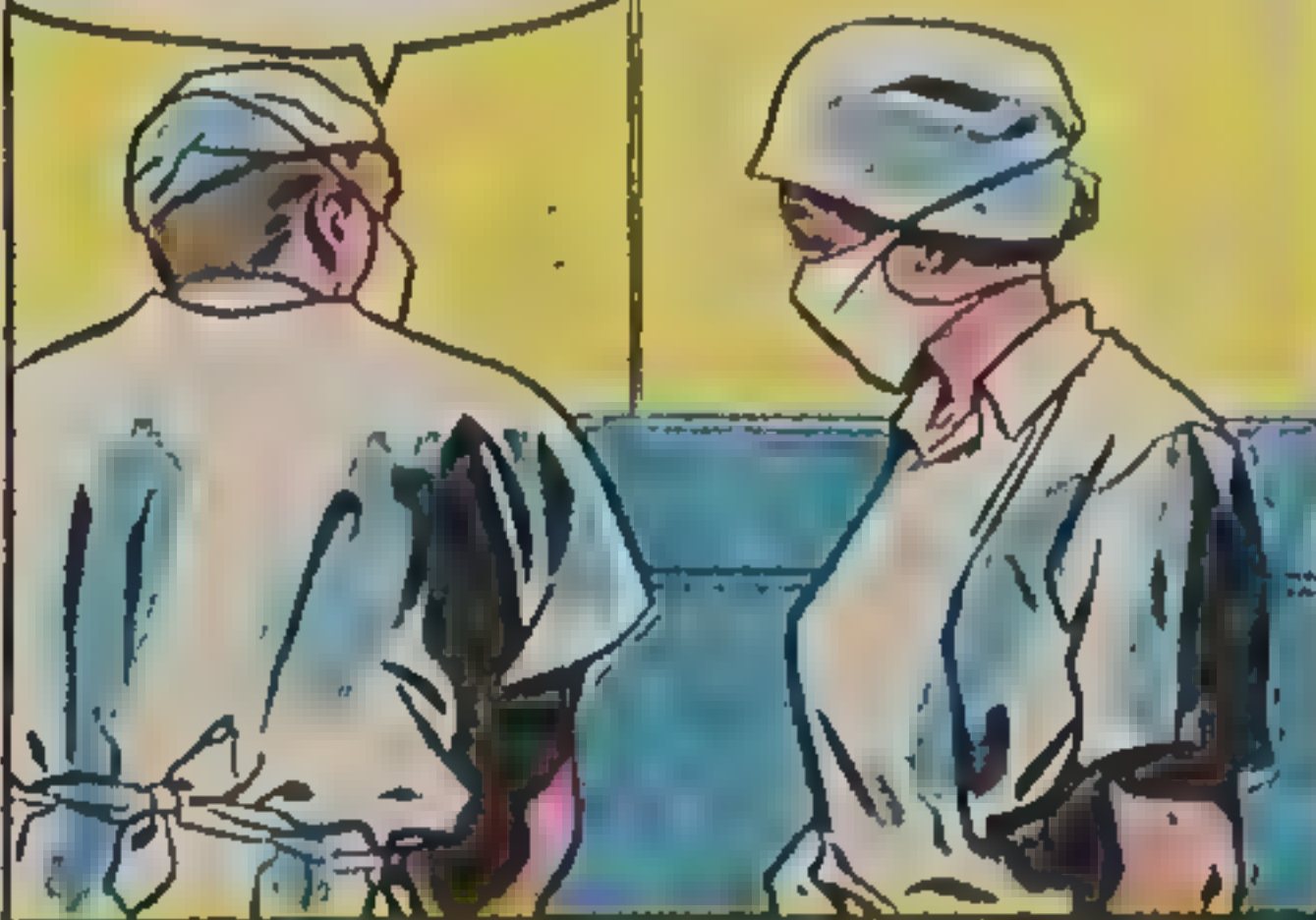
THAT'S TERRIBLE, DOC!

I'LL WIRE YOUR FATHER FOR PERMISSION TO OPERATE, PHIL!



THAT NIGHT...

SCALPEL, NURSE. FORCEPS...



PHIL, OUT OF THE GAME FOR TEN WEEKS, REMAINED WITH HIS TEAM. RETURNING TO ACTION IN AUGUST, HE BATTED .310 THAT SEASON, BUT HIS SENSATIONAL BASE-STEALING ENDED.



CERTAIN THAT HE HAD FAILED TO MAKE GOOD AT BASSETT, PHIL WENT BACK TO WORK AT THE BAY RIDGE FACTORY THAT WINTER. ONE DAY...

I'VE GOT GOOD NEWS FOR YOU, PHIL! I'M GOING TO MANAGE THE NORFOLK TEAM IN THE PIEDMONT LEAGUE THIS YEAR, AND YOU'RE GOING THERE WITH ME!

I'LL SAY THAT'S GOOD NEWS, ROY!

PHIL BEGAN THE 1938 SEASON POORLY AT NORFOLK BECAUSE HIS LEG WAS STILL STIFF FROM THE THIRTY-SEVEN STITCHES PUT IN IT DURING HIS OPERATION.

OUT!

BOO! WE WANT CORBITT!



CLAUDE CORBITT, A LOCAL BOY, WAS THE NORFOLK FANS' FAVORITE. HE OUTHIT PHIL DURING MAY .327 TO .222!

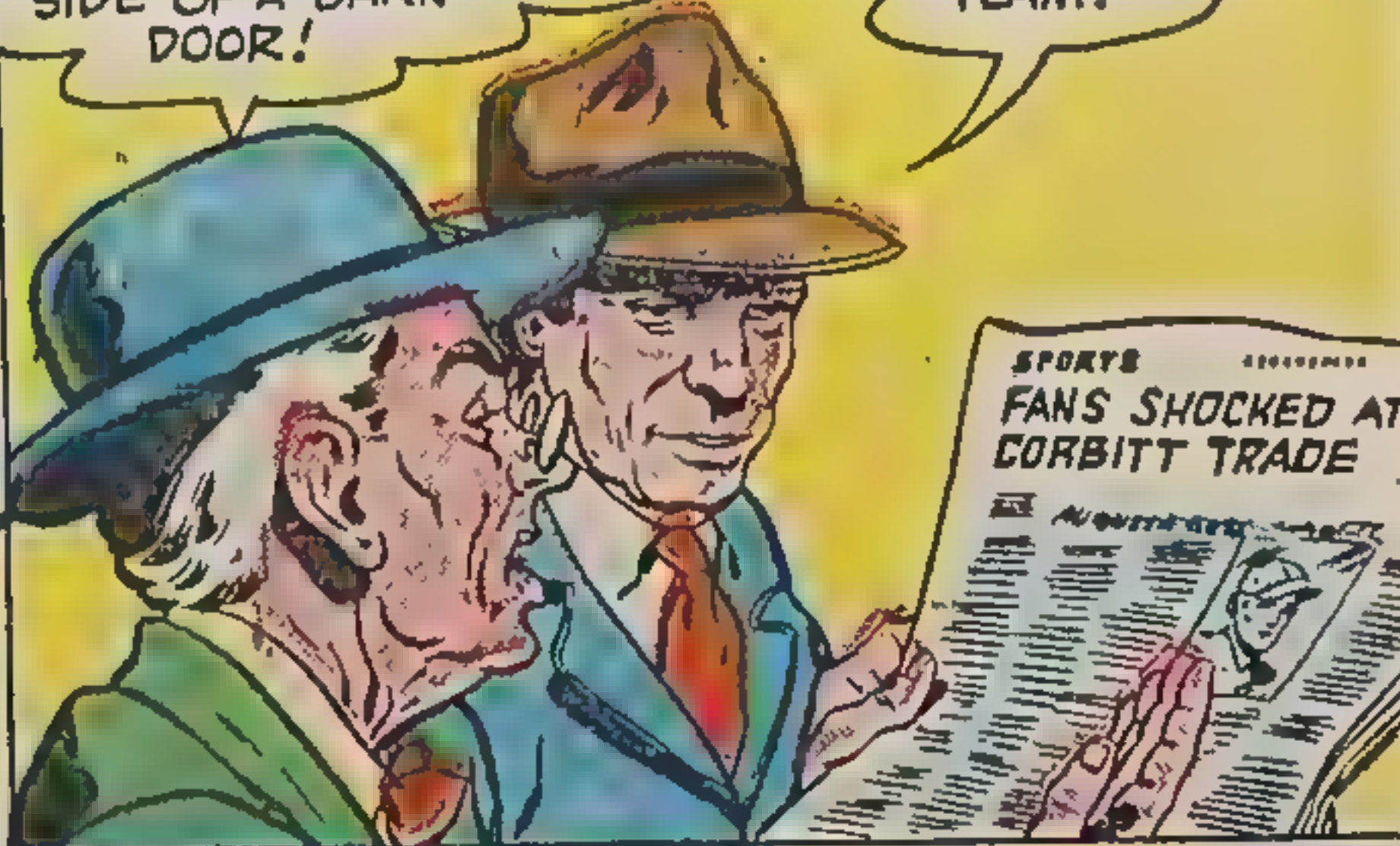
BUT ON JUNE 15, LAST DAY FOR MAKING TRADES, MANAGER WHITE RETAINED PHIL AND SENT CORBITT TO AUGUSTA.

WHAT'S THE IDEA? THAT RIZZUTO CAN'T HIT THE SIDE OF A BARN DOOR!

HE'S A PAL OF ROY WHITE. THAT'S WHY HE'S ON THE TEAM!



'ATTAWAY, CLAUDIE!



FACED WITH THE SEVEREST TRIAL OF HIS YOUNG CAREER, PHIL PLAYED SENSATIONAL BALL!

SAFE!

WE WANT CORBITT!



BUT IRATE NORFOLK FANS BOOED HIM EVEN WHEN HE WON GAMES WITH CLUTCH HITS.

HOWEVER, IN A VITAL GAME IN LATE AUGUST, PHIL HIT A BASE-CLEARING DOUBLE FOR THREE RUNS, AND ---

PHIL DID IT! THAT'S THE PENNANT! THREE HITS AND THREE STEALS!

WOW! 'RAY FOR PHIL!



WITH A BATTING AVERAGE OF .336 AND A SLUGGING AVERAGE OF .495, PHIL WAS THE PIEDMONT LEAGUE'S ALL-STAR SHORTSTOP, LOSING THE MOST-VALUABLE-PLAYER AWARD BY ONLY ONE VOTE!



THAT WINTER PHIL WAS PROMOTED TO THE KANSAS CITY BLUES IN THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION. TRAVELING SOUTH IN MARCH, HE WAS JOINED BY THREE OLD TEAMMATES FROM NORFOLK!

THIS IS OUR BIG CHANCE, BOYS!

RIGHT, GERRY! WE'LL SHOW 'EM!

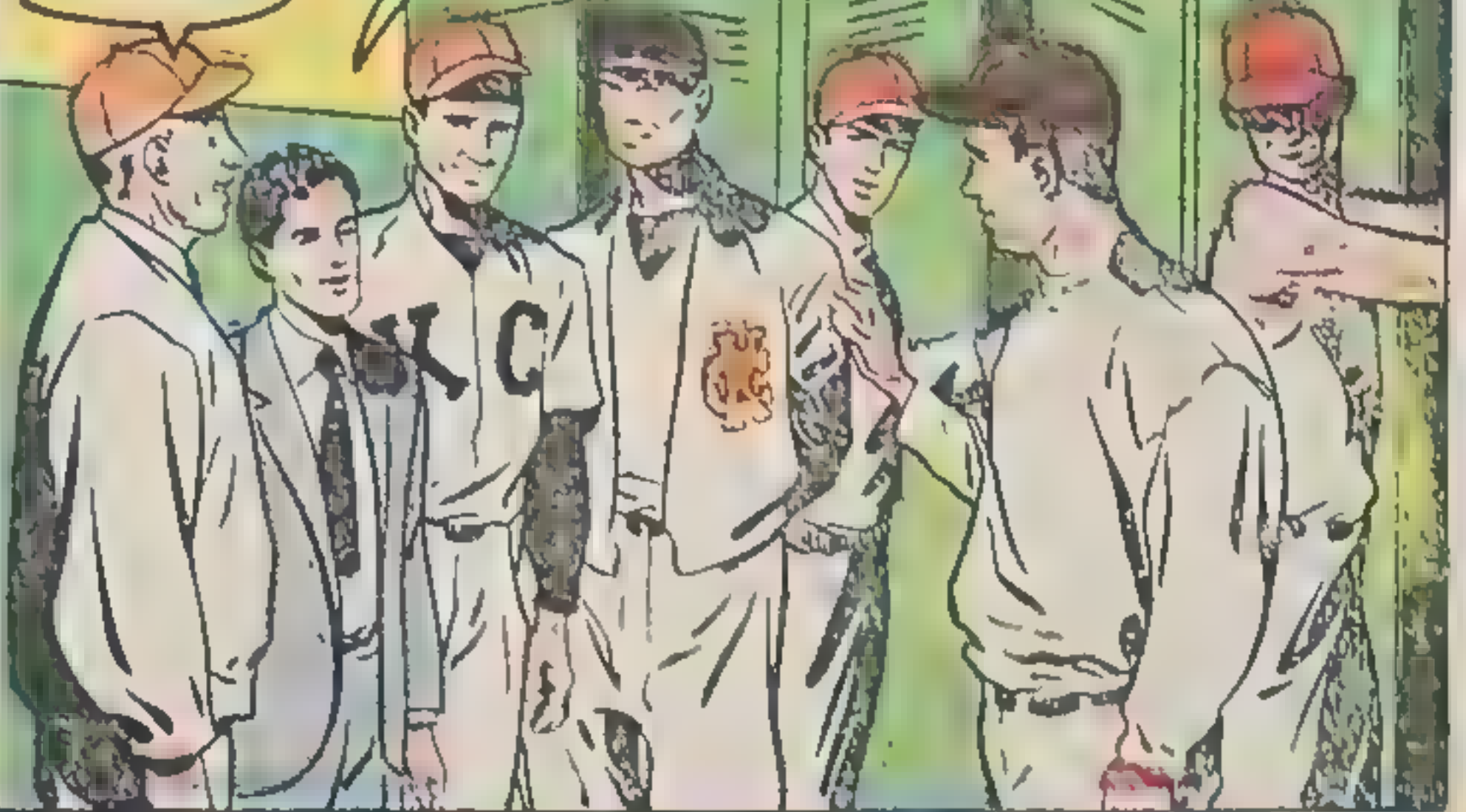


PHIL'S PARTNERS WERE AARON ROBINSON, THE BIG CATCHER; BUD METHENY, AND GERRY PRIDY.

AT LAKE WALES, FLORIDA, THE BLUES' TRAINING CAMP, MANAGER BILLY MEYER INTRODUCED PHIL TO HIS ALL-STAR TEAMMATES!

THIS IS PHIL RIZZUTO, OUR SHORTSTOP, BOYS!

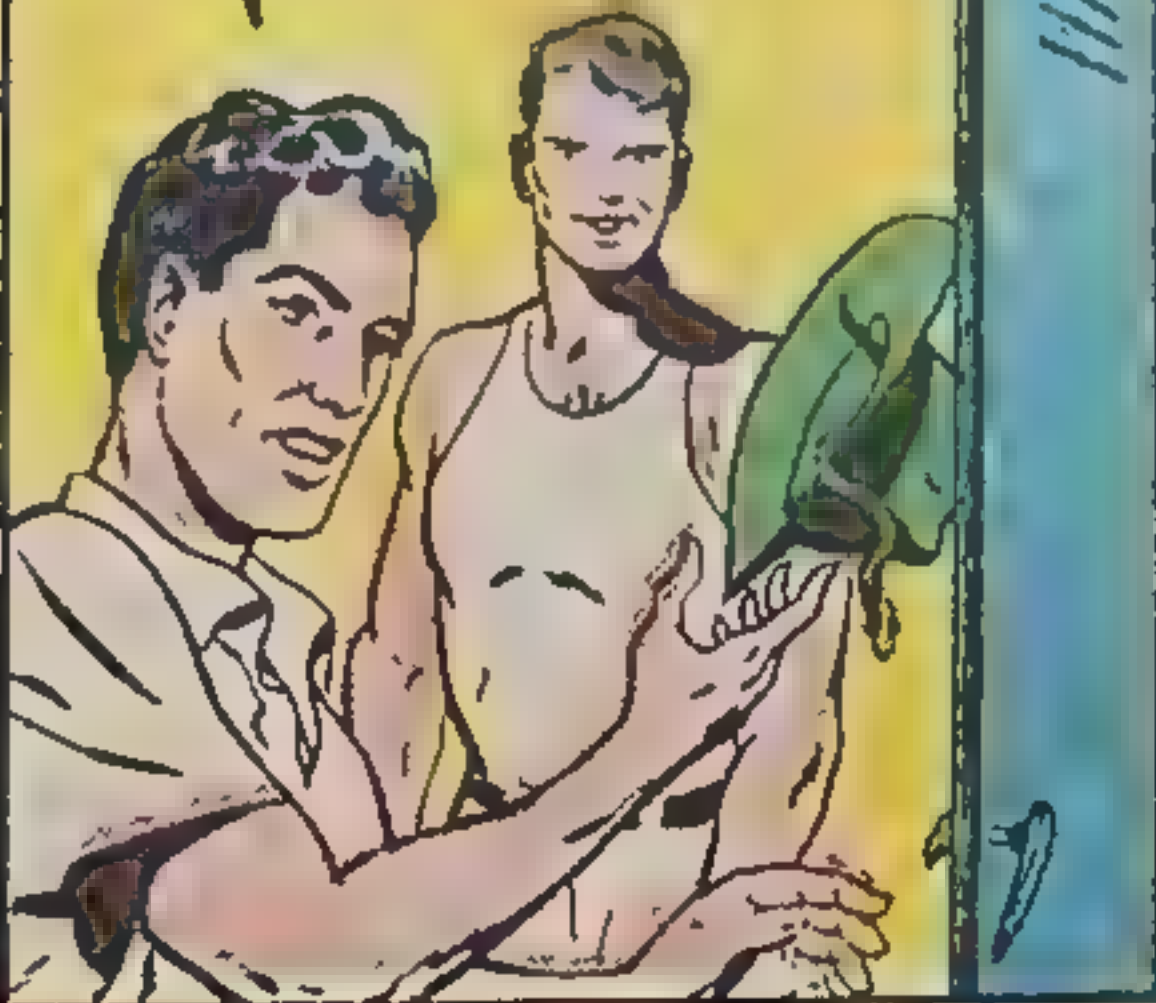
GLAD TO MEET YOU, FELLOWS!



AFTER PRACTICE THAT FIRST DAY...

HOLY COW! A SNAKE!

HA-HA-HA!



THAT NIGHT...

FROGS! WHERE'D THEY COME FROM?



BUT AT THE BALL FIELD THE NEXT MORNING...

THAT'S JUST OUR WAY OF HAZING YOU, SCOOTER! DON'T WORRY... YOU'RE A BIG LEAGUER ALREADY!

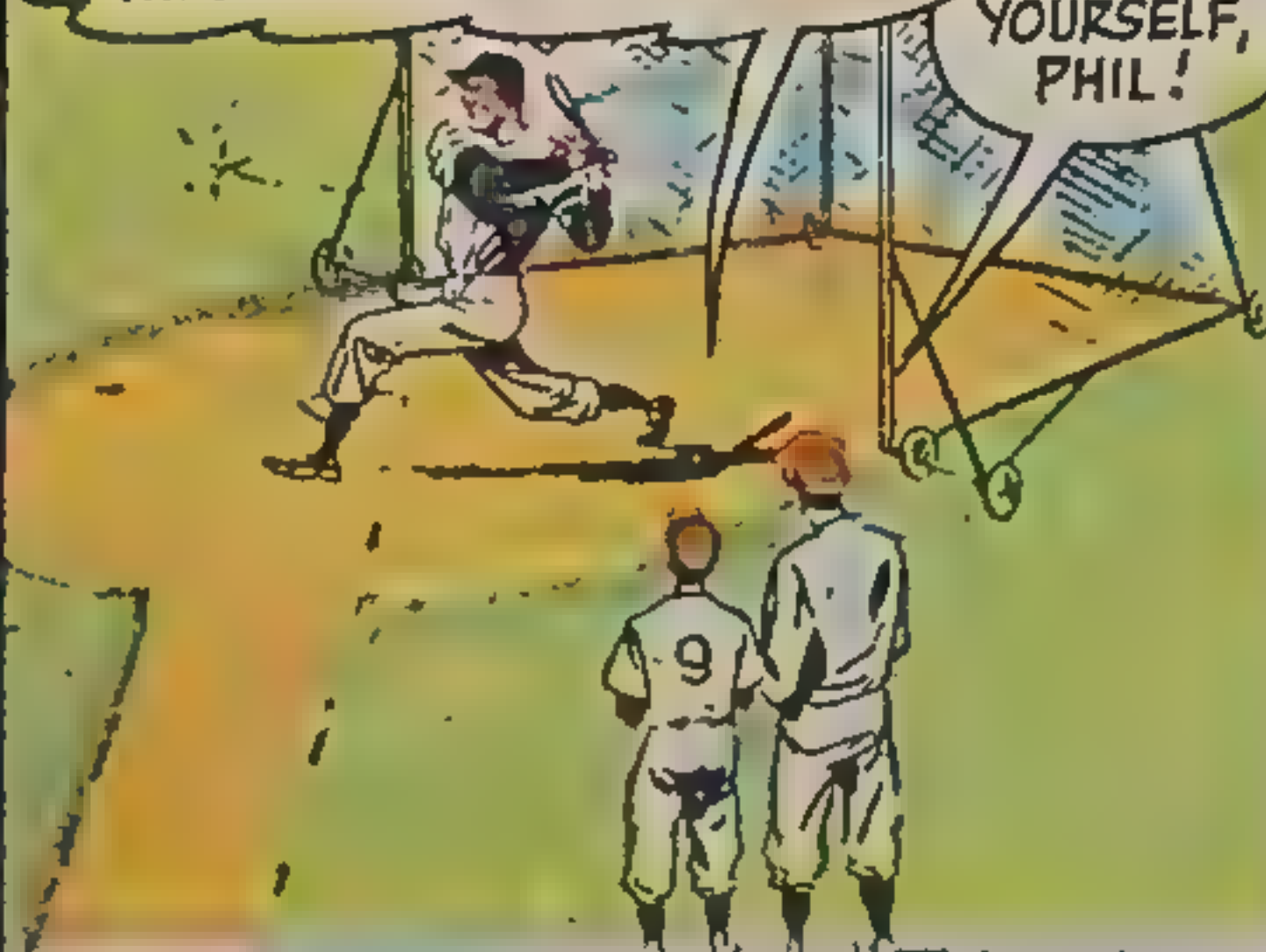
MAYBE SO, FRENCHY, BUT I STILL DON'T LIKE SNAKES AND FROGS!



A FEW DAYS LATER, THE BLUES WENT TO ST. PETERSBURG FOR AN EXHIBITION GAME AGAINST THE WORLD CHAMPION NEW YORK YANKEES!

I USED TO DREAM OF PLAYING AGAINST THE YANKS, GERRY. THEY'RE SURE BIG FELLOWS!

YOU'RE A LITTLE GIANT YOURSELF, PHIL!



BUT WHEN THE GAME BEGAN, PHIL LOST HIS AWE OF THE INVINCIBLE YANKS, BEATING OUT A BEAUTIFUL BUNT.

NICE WORK, RIZZUTO!



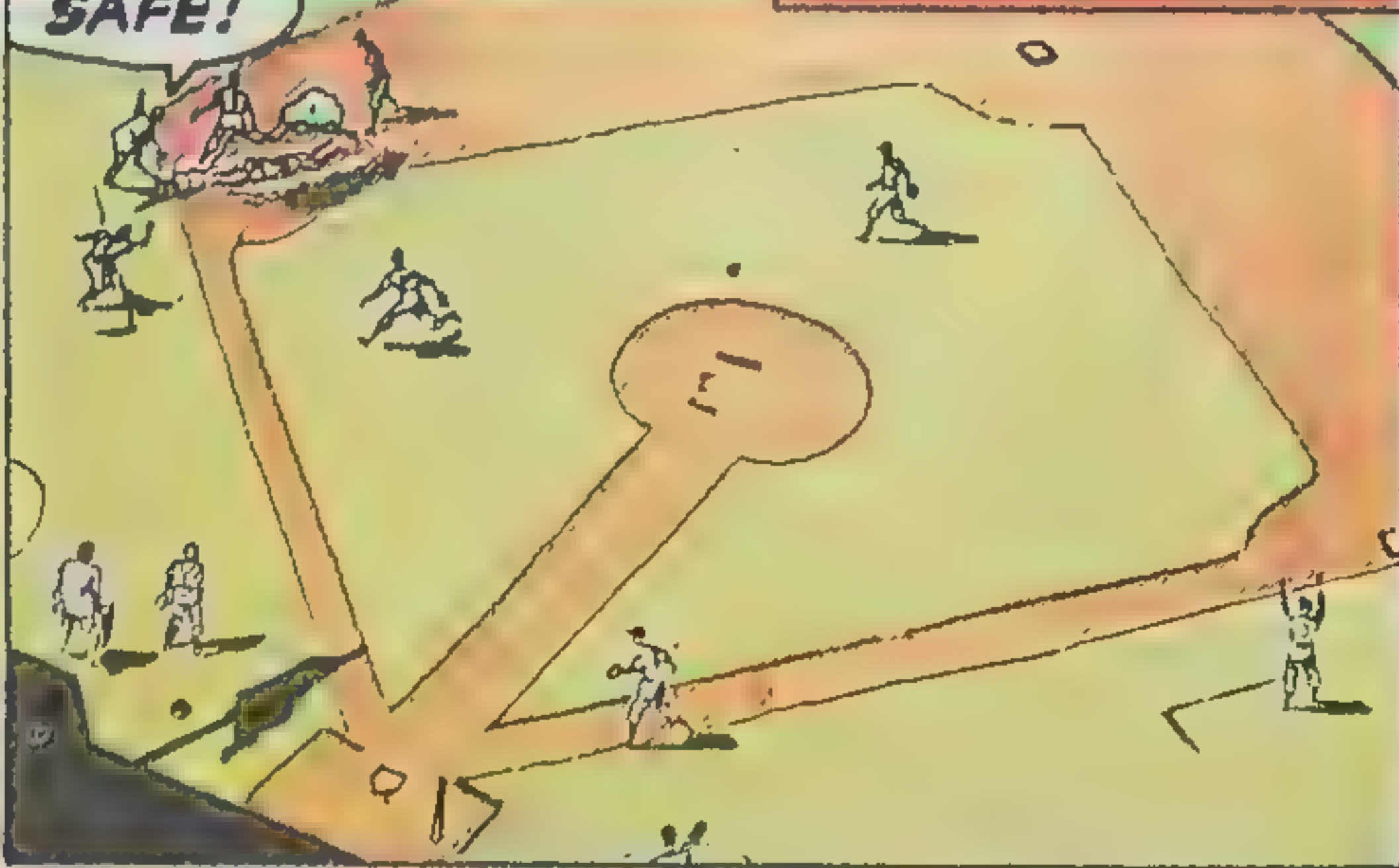
PHIL STARTED TWO DOUBLE PLAYS IN HIS FIRST GAME AGAINST A BIG LEAGUE CLUB.



# PHIL RIZZUTO. BASEBALL HERO

AND PHIL CONTINUED HIS GREAT PLAY AS THE SEASON BEGAN, FACING HARRY (THE CAT) BRECHEEN, THEN WITH THE POWERFUL COLUMBIAS SENATORS WITH THE SCORE ONE TO ONE IN THE TENTH PHIL TRIPLED!

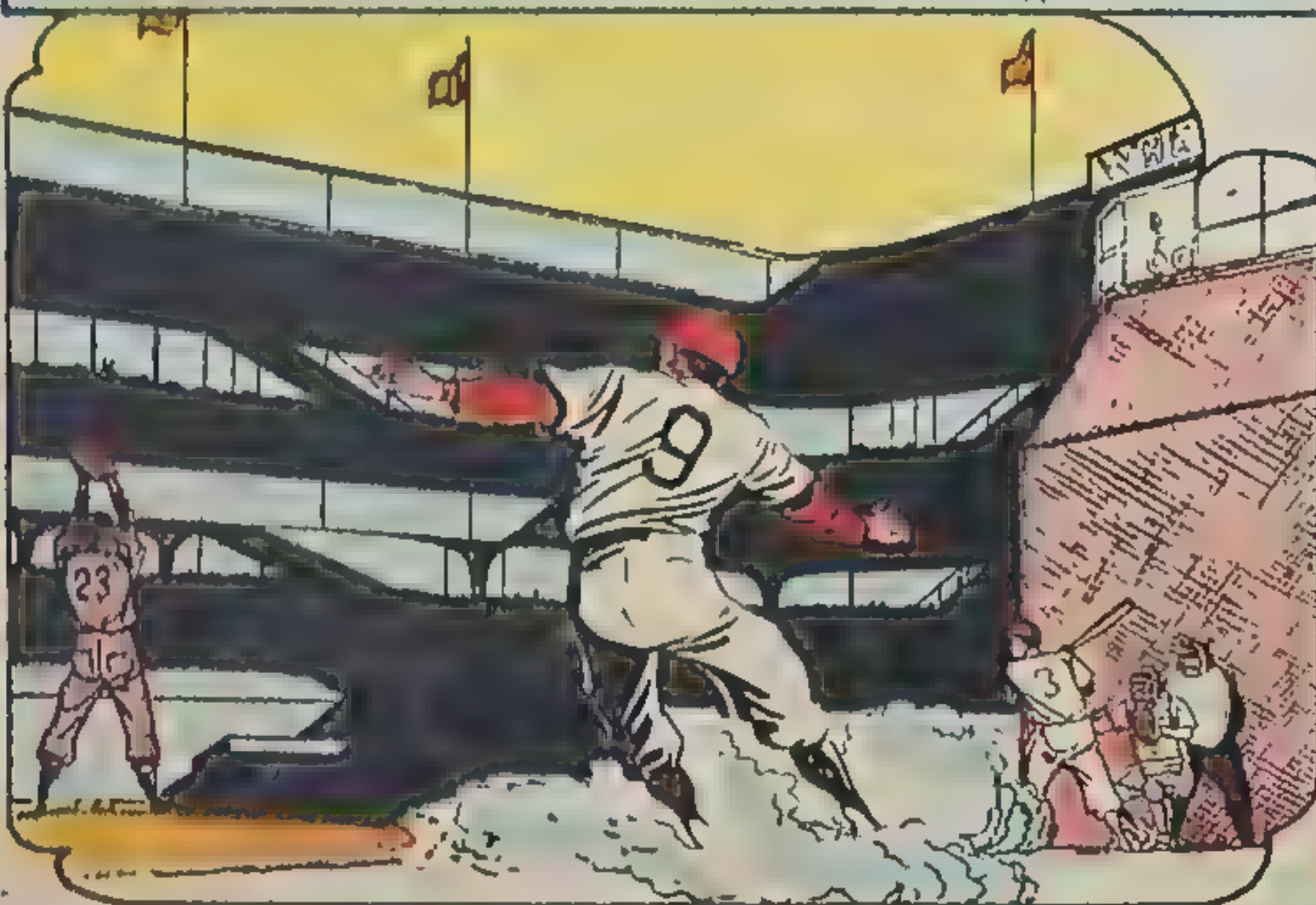
SAFE!



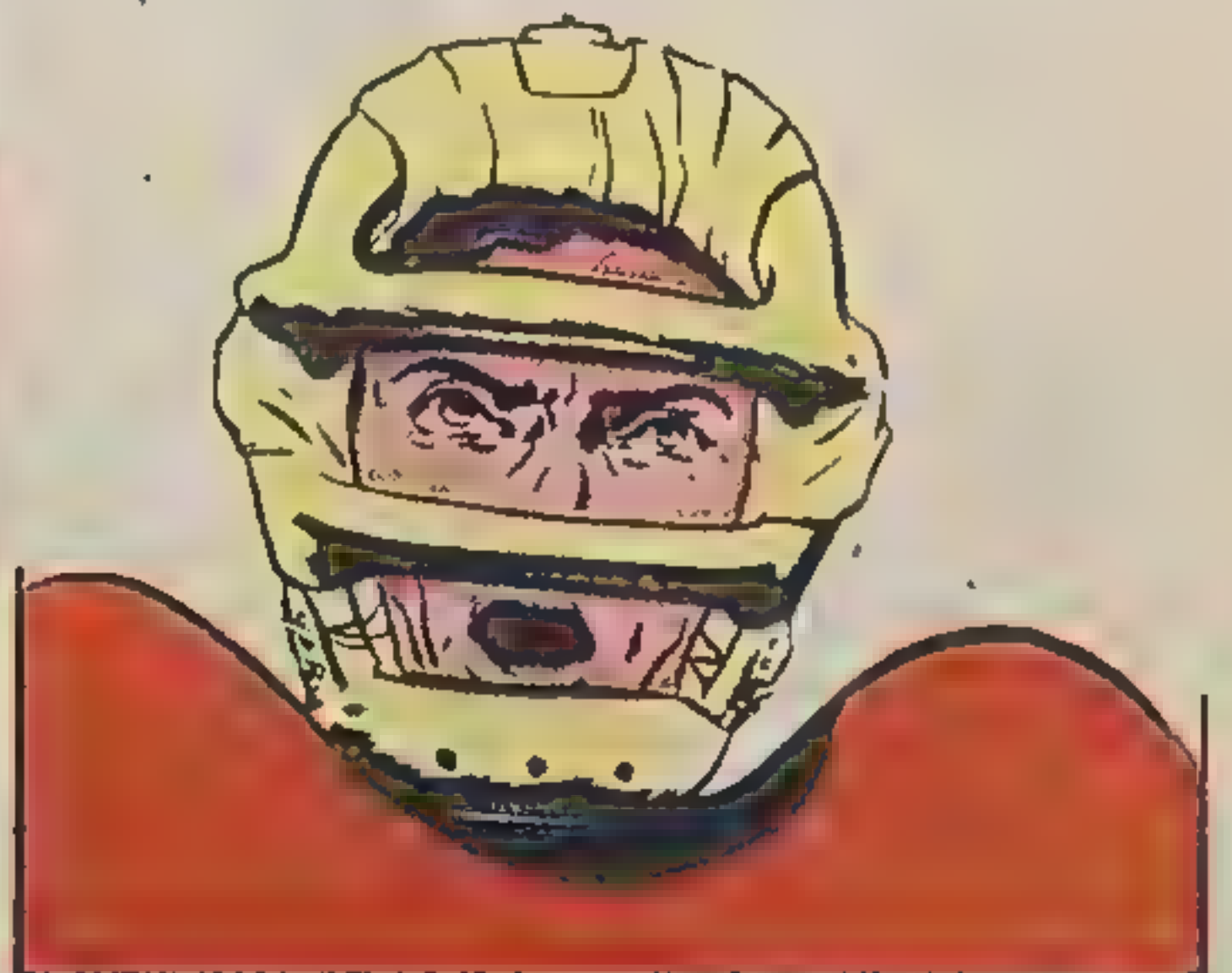
AS BRECHEEN PEERED AT HIS CATCHER FOR A SIGN, THE DARING SCOOTER TOOK A LONG LEAD OFF THIRD BASE.



AS BRECHEEN WENT INTO HIS DELIVERY, PHIL FEIGNED A STEAL OF HOME, UNNERVING THE PITCHER, AND...



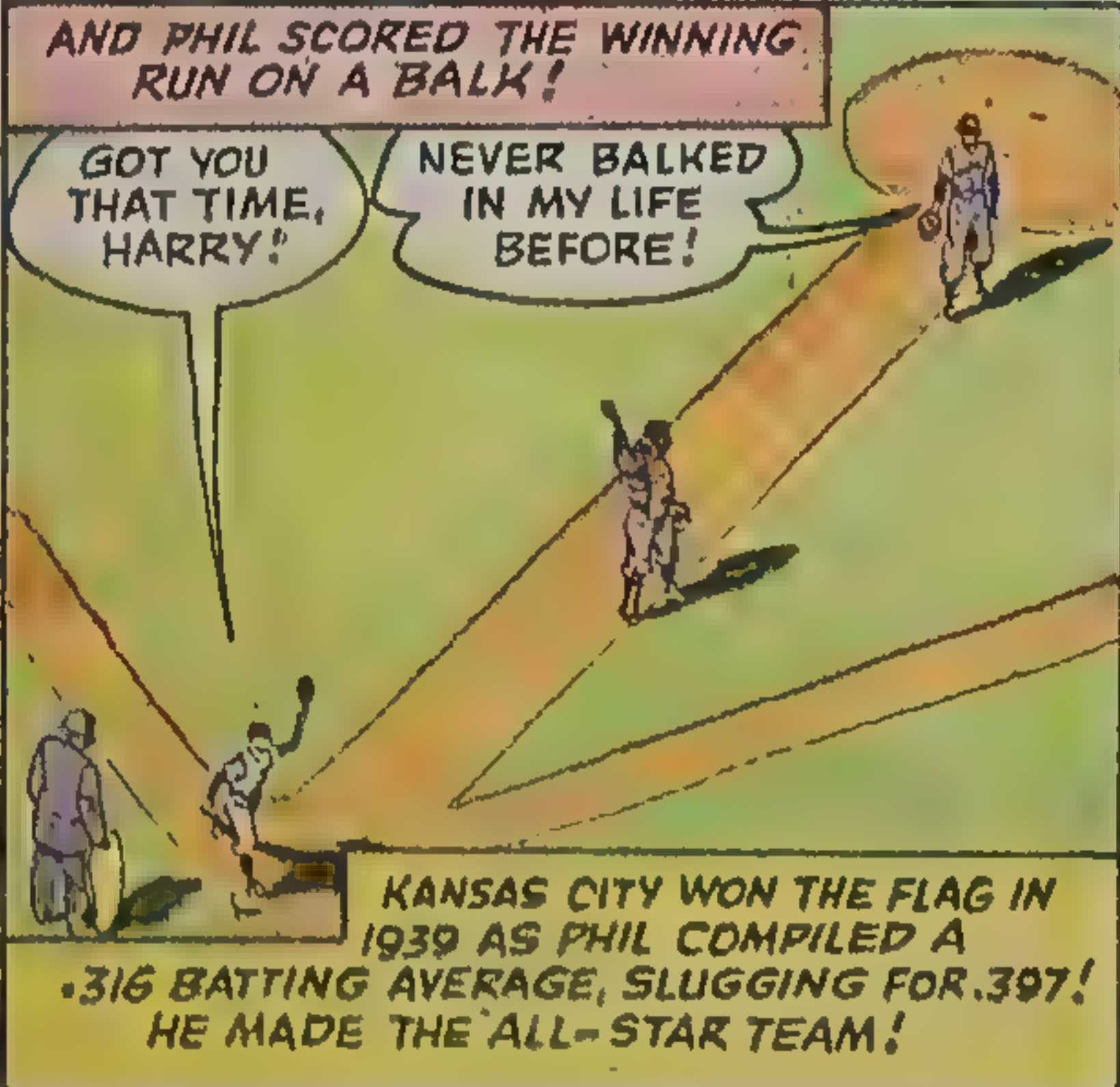
BALK!



AND PHIL SCORED THE WINNING RUN ON A BALK!

GOT YOU THAT TIME, HARRY!

NEVER BALKED IN MY LIFE BEFORE!

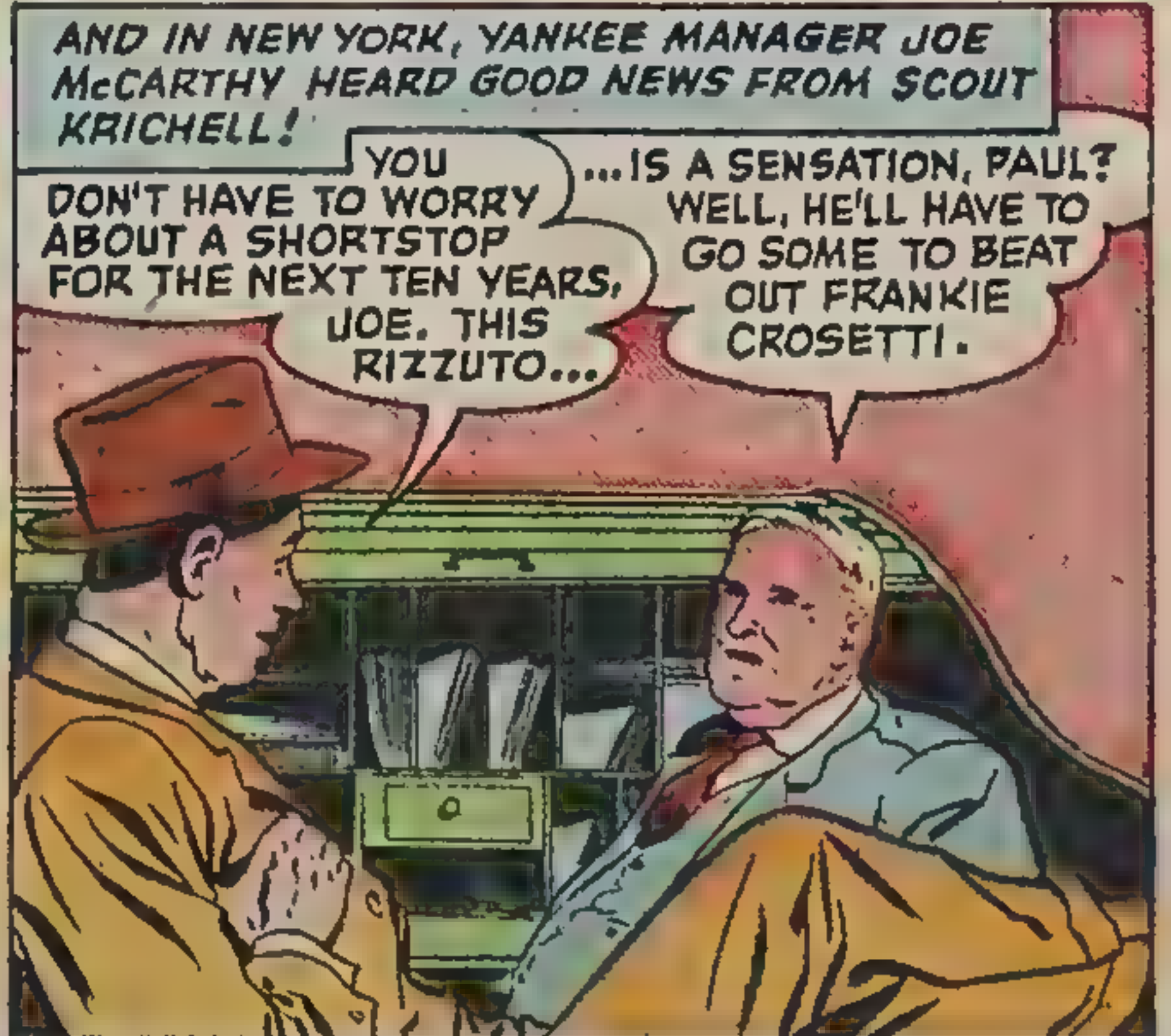


KANSAS CITY WON THE FLAG IN 1939 AS PHIL COMPILED A .316 BATTING AVERAGE, SLUGGING FOR .397! HE MADE THE ALL-STAR TEAM!

AND IN NEW YORK, YANKEE MANAGER JOE McCARTHY HEARD GOOD NEWS FROM SCOUT KRICHILL!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT A SHORTSTOP FOR THE NEXT TEN YEARS, JOE. THIS RIZZUTO...

...IS A SENSATION, PAUL? WELL, HE'LL HAVE TO GO SOME TO BEAT OUT FRANKIE CROSETTI.





THE MIGHTY YANKEES  
HAD WON FOUR  
PENNANTS AND  
FOUR WORLD'S  
CHAMPIONSHIPS IN  
SUCCESSION  
WITH BRILLIANT  
FRANKIE CROSETTI  
AT SHORTSTOP.  
BECAUSE  
FRANKIE WAS  
STILL AT THE PEAK  
OF HIS PLAY,  
THE DOUGHTY  
LITTLE SCOOTER  
REMAINED AT KANSAS  
CITY FOR THE 1940  
SEASON.

TEAMED AGAIN WITH PRIDY, PHIL EXECUTED FANTASTIC DOUBLE-PLAYS!



PHIL'S DEFT BUNTS DROVE RIVAL  
INFELDERS CRAZY.

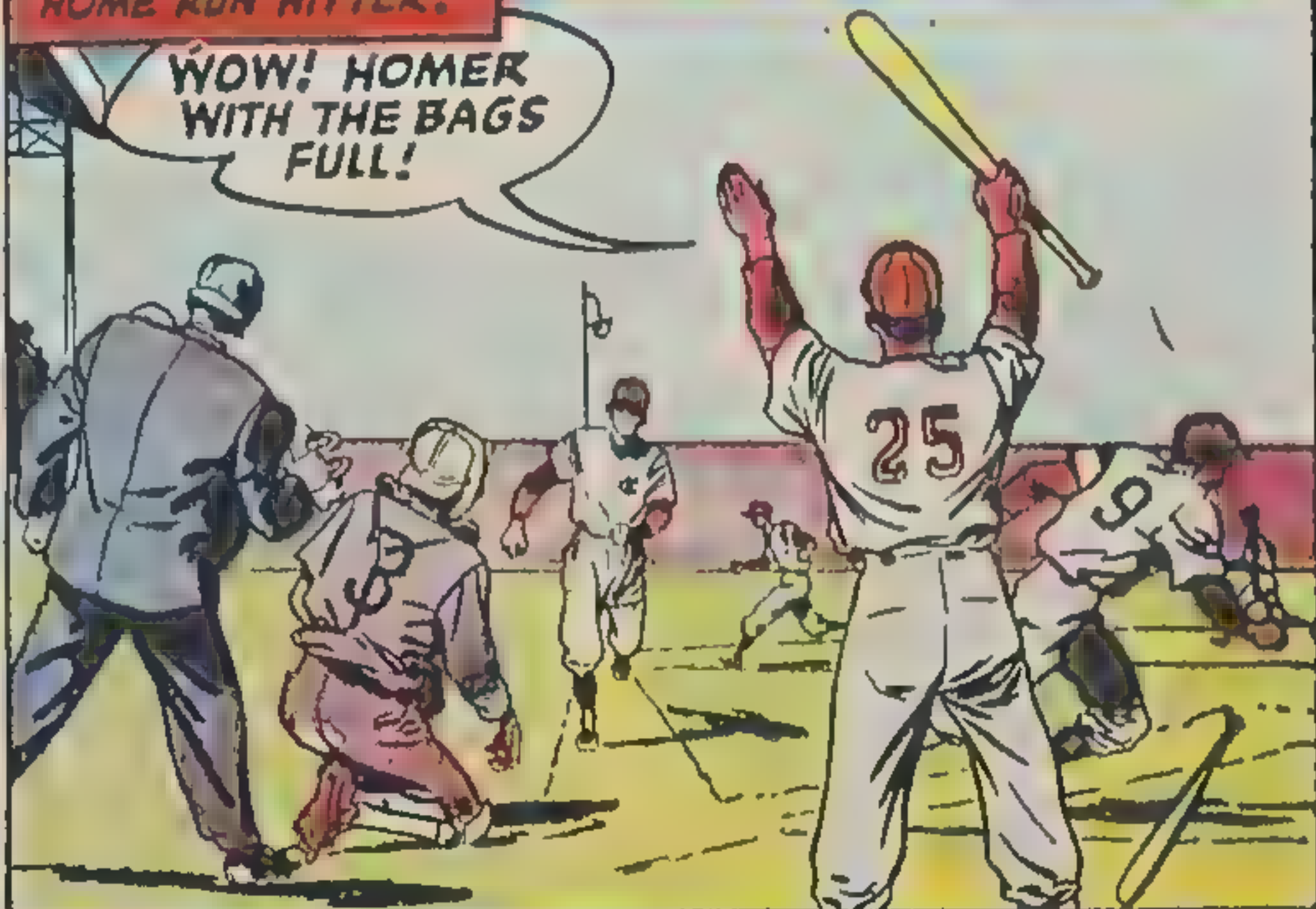
OOOMPF!



PHIL MADE SEVEN HITS IN A  
TWIN BILL WITH MILWAUKEE!

DESPITE HIS MINIATURE SIZE, PHIL BECAME A DANGEROUS  
HOME RUN HITTER!

WOW! HOMER  
WITH THE BAGS  
FULL!



LED BY THE MIGHTY MITE, THE  
BLUES AGAIN WON THE AMERICAN  
ASSOCIATION FLAG!

RAY FOR  
THE SCOOTER!

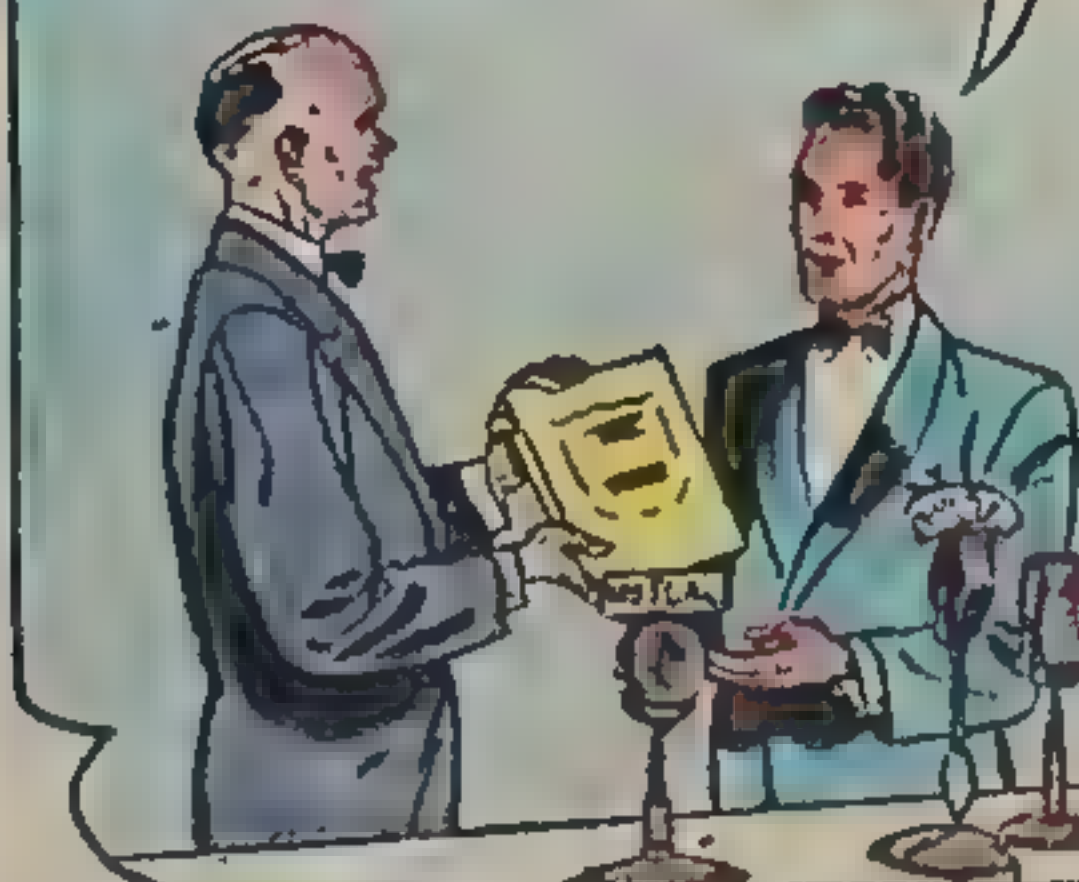
YEA,  
PHIL!



AND AT THE SEASON'S END...

ON BEHALF OF THE SPORTING  
NEWS, I AM HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE  
PHIL RIZZUTO IS THE NUMBER  
ONE MINOR LEAGUE  
ROOKIE OF THE  
UNITED STATES!

I APPRECIATE  
THE HONOR,  
MR. SPINK!



## The Scooter's Miracle Record- 1940

At Bat	579
Runs	124
Hits	201
Doubles	28
Triples	10
Homers	10
Stolen Bases	35*

\* Led League.  
AND HE STOOD ONLY  
FIVE FEET SIX INCHES  
IN HIS STOCKING  
FEET!



WE'VE WON FOUR FLAGS IN FIVE YEARS. NOW WE'LL WIN 'EM ALL!

SPORTS PAGE.  
**MILLION DOLLAR ROOKIES TO JOIN YANKS!**  
Phil Rizzuto and Gerry Priddy, the sensational pivot partners from Kansas City, will report to the Yankee Camp in St. Petersburg, Florida, this spring.

BUT WHEN LITTLE PHIL REPORTED TO THE YANKEE CAMP...

I AM PHIL RIZZUTO, THE BALL-PLAYER!

QUIT YER KIDDIN'! IF YOU WANT TO SEE THE BALLPLAYERS, KIDDO, WAIT TILL THEY'RE OUT ON THE FIELD!

YANKEE TRAINING CLUB

LEFTY GOMEZ, WITTY YANKEE SOUTHPAW STAR, HEARD PHIL'S PROTESTS AND...

LET HIM IN, FRED, OR THE DUCKS'LL WALK ALL OVER HIM!

**I**N THE CLUBHOUSE, PHIL WONDERED HOW HE WOULD MAKE GOOD AMONG SUCH TOWERING YANKEE STARS AS RED RUFFING, BILL DICKEY, JOLTIN' JOE DIMAGGIO, KING KONG KELLER AND TOMMY HENRICH!

YOU'D BETTER CLIMB UP ON A STOOL IF YOU WANT THE BOYS TO SEE YOU, PHIL!

THEY SURE ARE BIG!

PHIL PROVED HE COULD PLAY YANKEE BALL. HE HIT WELL IN PRACTICE, AND WAS COACHED AT SHORTSTOP BY FRANKIE CROSETTI!

I STAND WITH MY LEGS NOT TOO FAR APART, PHIL, BALANCING MYSELF ON THE BALLS OF MY FEET SO I CAN GET THE JUMP ON GROUNDERS. I ALWAYS TRY TO FIELD A BALL WITH MY GLOVE, NOT MY BARE HAND.

I GET IT, FRANKIE!

AND THEN, ON OPENING DAY...

SO YOU'RE ON THE YANKEE TEAM NOW, YOUNG FELLOW!

IT'S LIKE A DREAM.

THE SCOOTER'S PLAYING SHORTSTOP IN THE OPENING GAME.

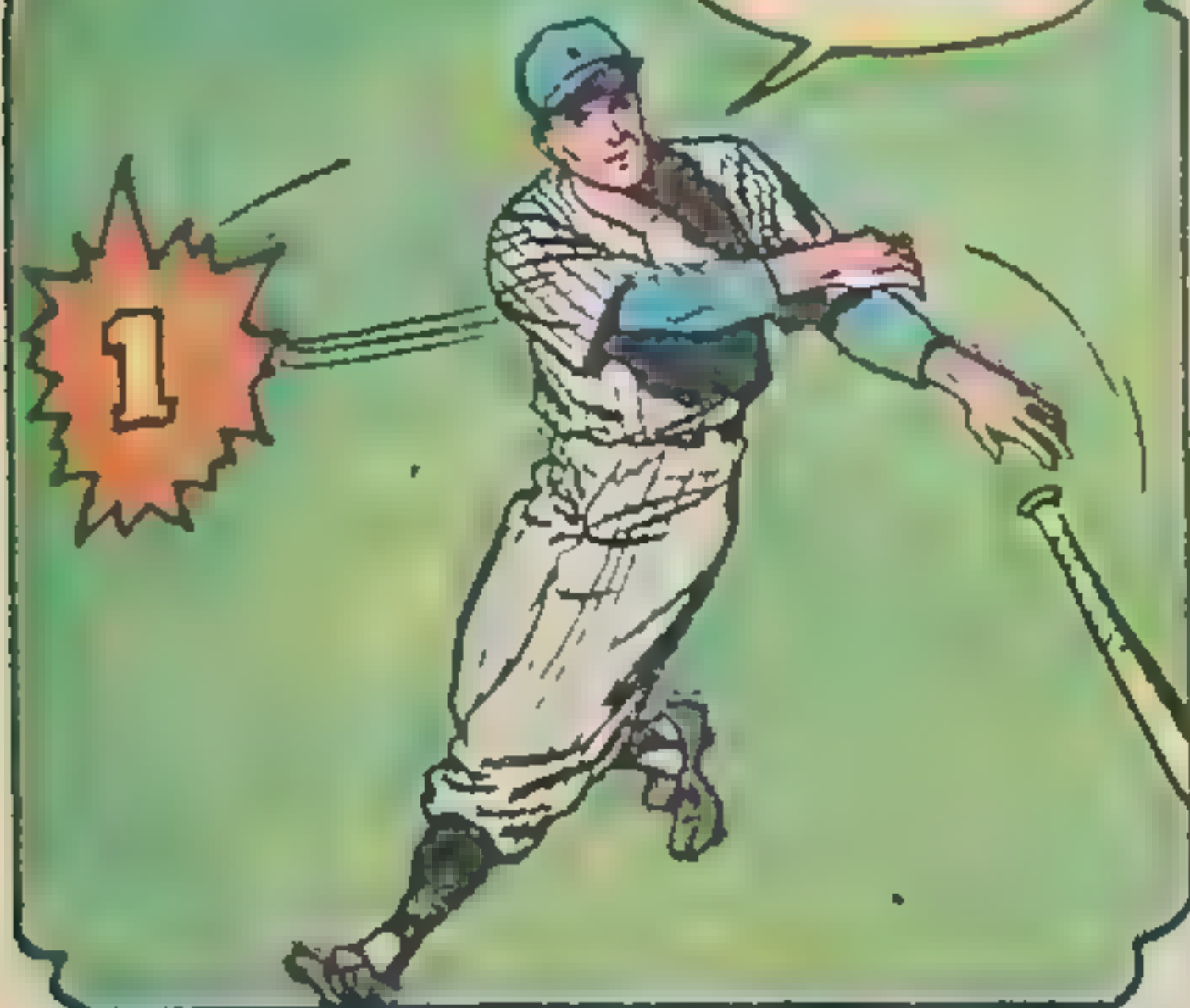
HE'S TAKEN CROSETTI'S JOB AWAY!

SHORTSTOP...  
NUMBER TEN...  
PHIL RIZZUTO,  
LEADING OFF  
FOR NEW YORK!



ON HIS FOURTH DAY, IN A GAME AGAINST THE ATHLETICS, PHIL LASHED A LINE SINGLE OFF NELSON POTTER, HIS FIRST MAJOR LEAGUE SAFETY.

AT LAST!



OVER ANXIOUS, PHIL PLAYED POORLY... AND IN MID-MAY...

I'VE BENCHED YOU FOR CROSETTI, PHIL, BECAUSE I WANT YOU TO SIT HERE WITH ME AND WATCH HOW HE PLAYS.

I UNDERSTAND, MR. MCCARTHY.

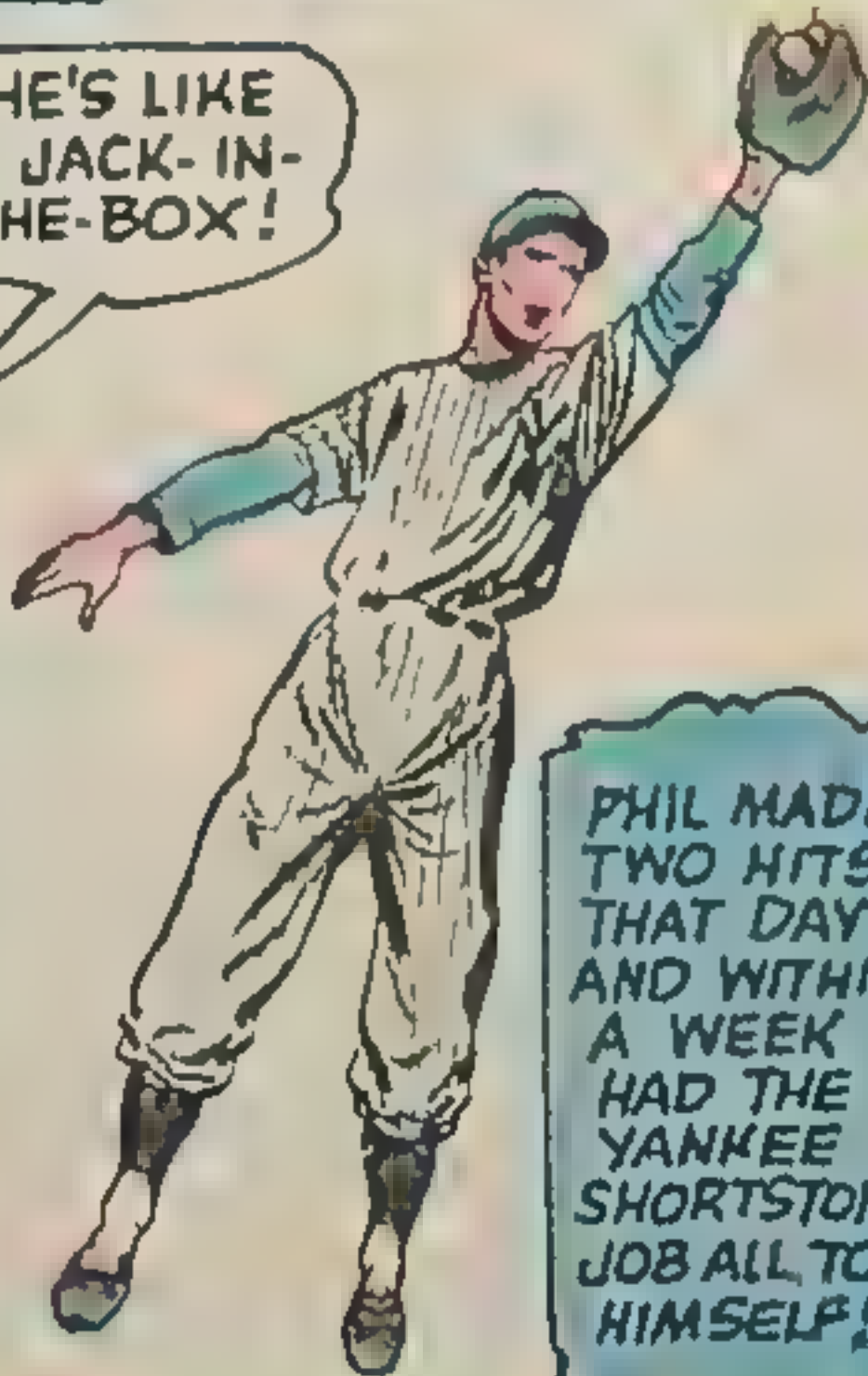


PHIL SECRETLY BELIEVED THAT HE HAD FAILED.

THREE WEEKS LATER...

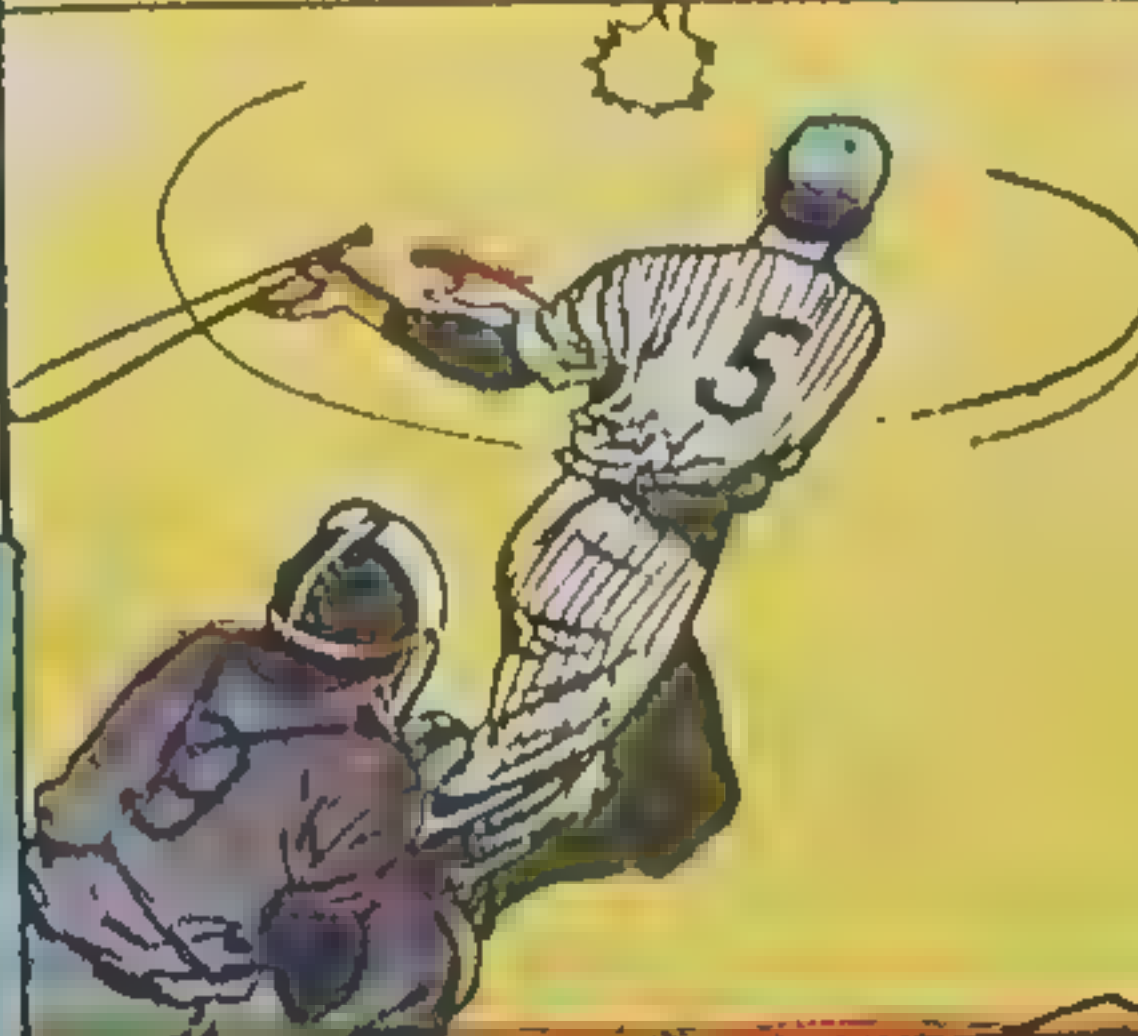
CROSETTI'S INJURED HIS LEG, PHIL. GO IN THERE AND PLAY HARD!

HE'S LIKE A JACK-IN-THE-BOX!



PHIL MADE TWO HITS THAT DAY AND WITHIN A WEEK HAD THE YANKEE SHORTSTOP JOB ALL TO HIMSELF!

MEANTIME, THE GREAT JOE DIMAGGIO LAUNCHED HIS HISTORIC FIFTY-SIX-GAME HITTING STREAK!



AND WITH DICKEY, KELLER AND HENRICH HITTING HOMERS, BEHIND RUFFING AND GOMEZ' PEERLESS PITCHING, THE YANKEES WON THE PENNANT BY SEVENTEEN GAMES!

BROOKLYN'S DANGEROUS DODGERS FOUGHT THE YANKS TOOTH AND NAIL IN THE WORLD SERIES. THE DODGERS WERE LEADING 4 TO 3 IN THE NINTH INNING OF THE FOURTH GAME WHEN TOMMY HENRICH STRUCK OUT. BUT CATCHER MICKEY OWEN MISSED THE BALL AND...



WE'VE GOT A CHANCE NOW!

THE YANKS WENT ON TO WIN, 7 TO 4, AND TO TAKE THE SERIES IN FIVE GAMES!

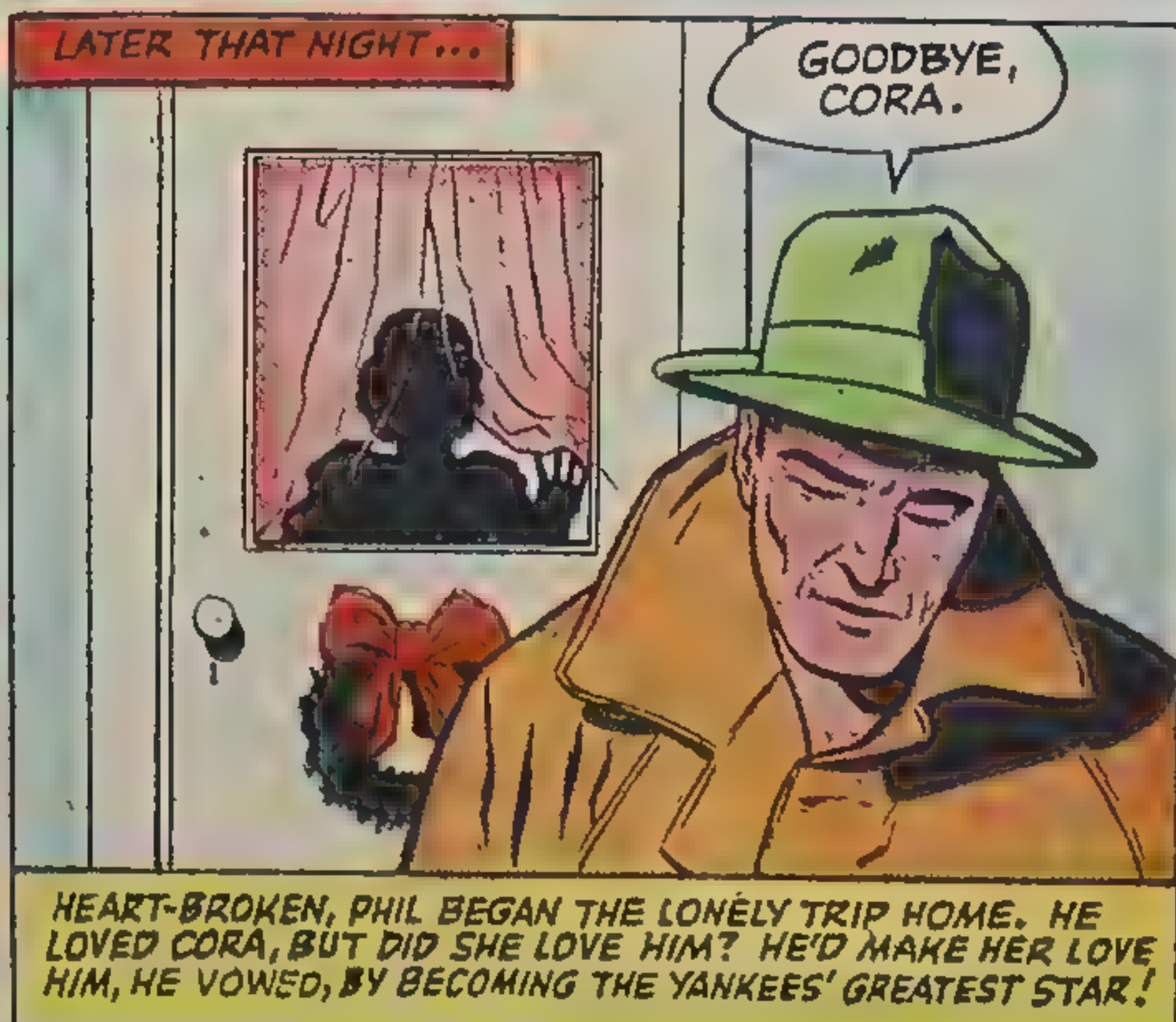
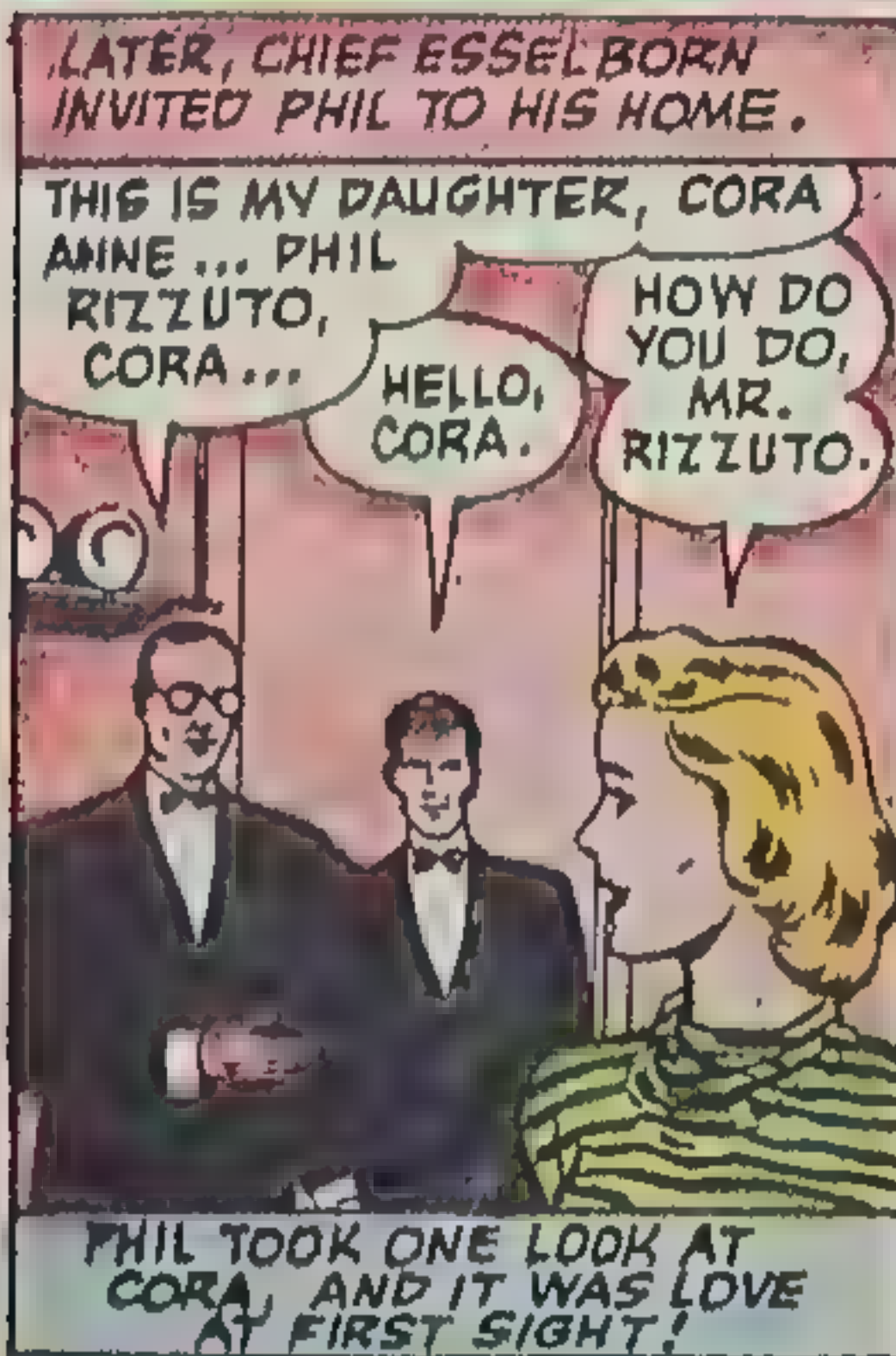
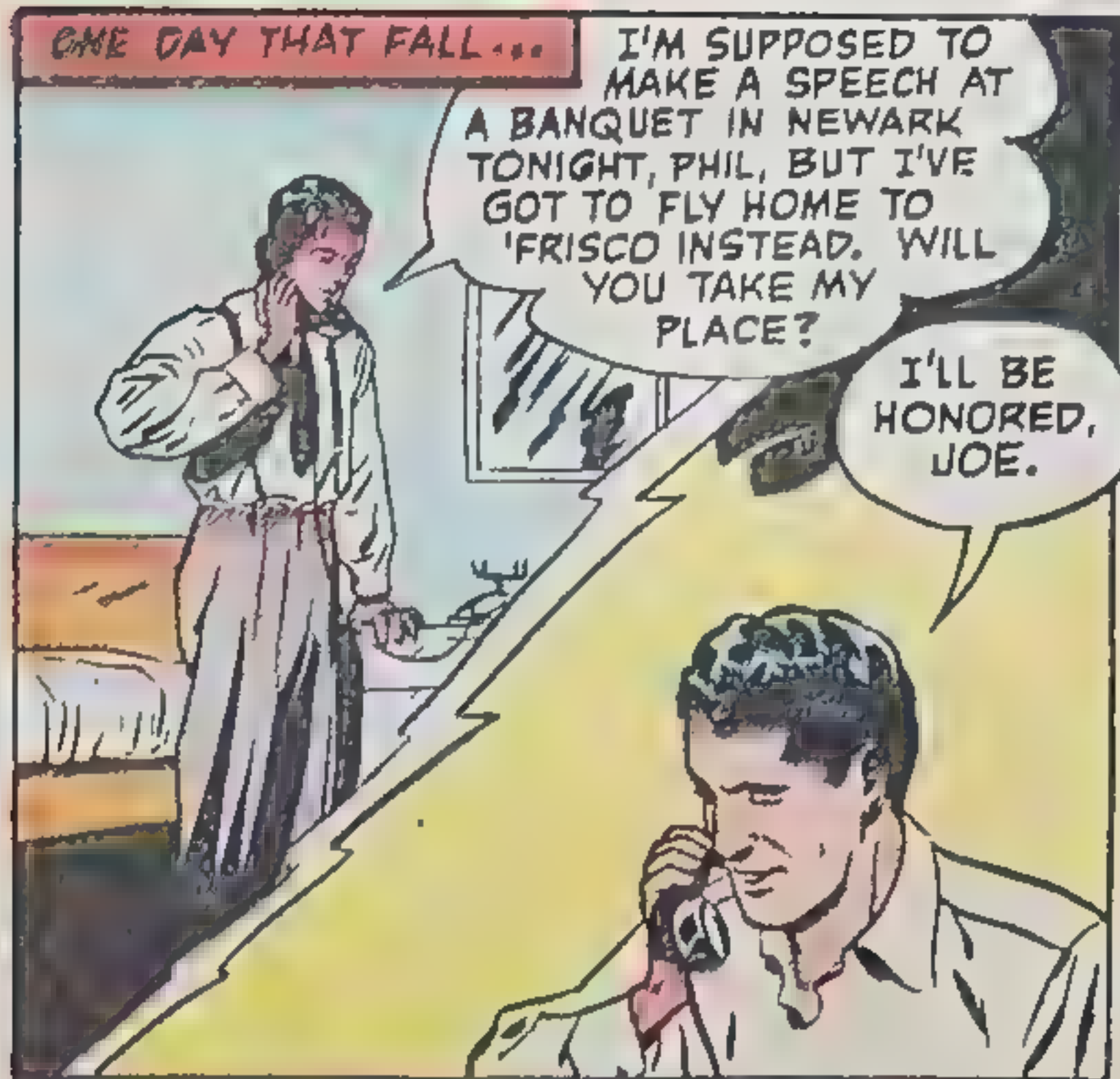
### PHIL'S FRESHMAN RECORD - 1941

AT BAT	515
RUNS	65
HITS	158
DOUBLES	20
TRIPLES	9
HOMERS	3
BATTING AVERAGE	.307
SLUGGING AVERAGE	.400

ONLY JOE DIMAGGIO HAD A HIGHER BATTING AVERAGE THAN PHIL!



# PHIL RIZZUTO, BASEBALL HERO





# PHIL RIZZUTO, BASEBALL HERO

IN EARLY 1942, WAR ENGULFED THE WORLD.

YOU HAVE A GREEN LIGHT TO PLAY BASEBALL THIS YEAR, COMMISSIONER LANDIS. OUR NATIONAL GAME IS A GREAT MORALE BUILDER FOR SOLDIERS AND CIVILIANS.

THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. BASEBALL WILL DO ITS SHARE!

DETERMINED TO WIN CORA BEFORE HE ANSWERED HIS COUNTRY'S CALL, PHIL PLAYED THE GAME OF HIS LIFE!



ON AUGUST 14, 1942, PHIL PARTICIPATED IN FIVE DOUBLE PLAYS, A RECORD FOR A SHORTSTOP!

IN THE 1942 WORLD SERIES AGAINST THE CARDINALS, PHIL BROKE A FIELDING RECORD BY MAKING SEVEN PUT-OUTS IN A SINGLE GAME!

PHIL'S ACCURATE BUNTING AND SHARP HITTING HELPED THE YANKEES ESTABLISH A LONG LEAD IN THE PENNANT RACE.

PHIL LED THE AMERICAN LEAGUE IN PUT-OUTS AT SHORT WITH 324!

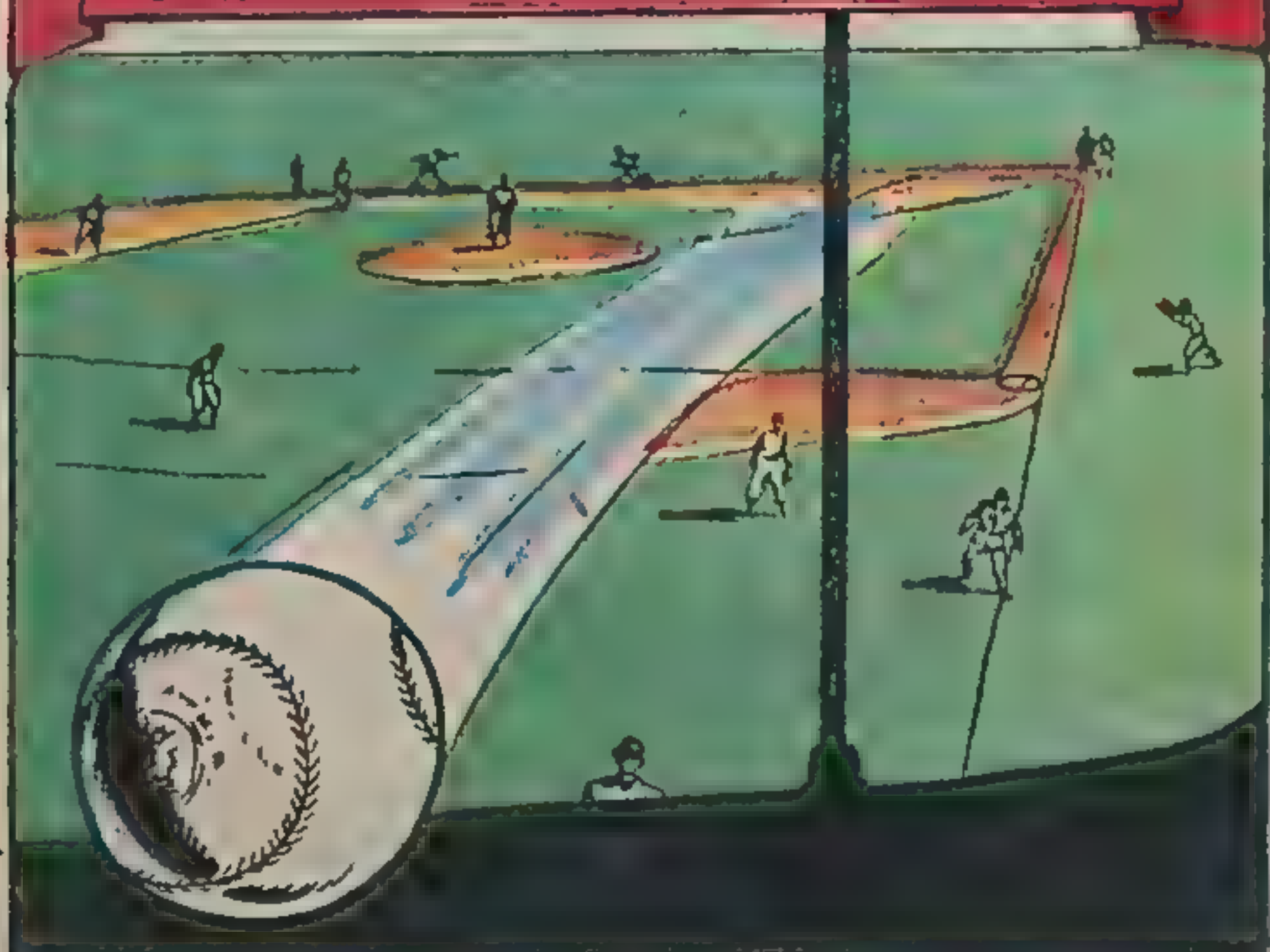
AND PHIL MADE A RECORD 114 DOUBLEPLAYS!

AND PHIL LED ALL SERIES PLAYERS IN BATTING WITH A .381 MARK! THE YANKEES' LITTLE "DYNA-MITE" WAS AT HIS PEAK!

AS THE SERIES ENDED, THE CHAMPION YANKEES TURNED TO A STERNER TASK. DIMAGGIO, RUFFING, HENRICH, SELKIRK JOINED THE COLORS, AND...

PHILIP FRANCIS RIZZUTO, DO YOU SOLEMNLY SWEAR TO DEFEND YOUR NATION IN WAR AND IN PEACE AGAINST ANY FOE?

I DO!





# PHIL RIZZUTO, BASEBALL HERO

AT NORFOLK, VIRGINIA, WHERE PHIL HAD ONCE PLAYED BALL, THE SCOOTER AWAITED HIS OVERSEAS ORDERS. ONE DAY...

I'LL BE LEAVING ANY DAY, CORA. I MUST SEE YOU BEFORE I GO!

I'LL TAKE THE NEXT TRAIN, DARLING.

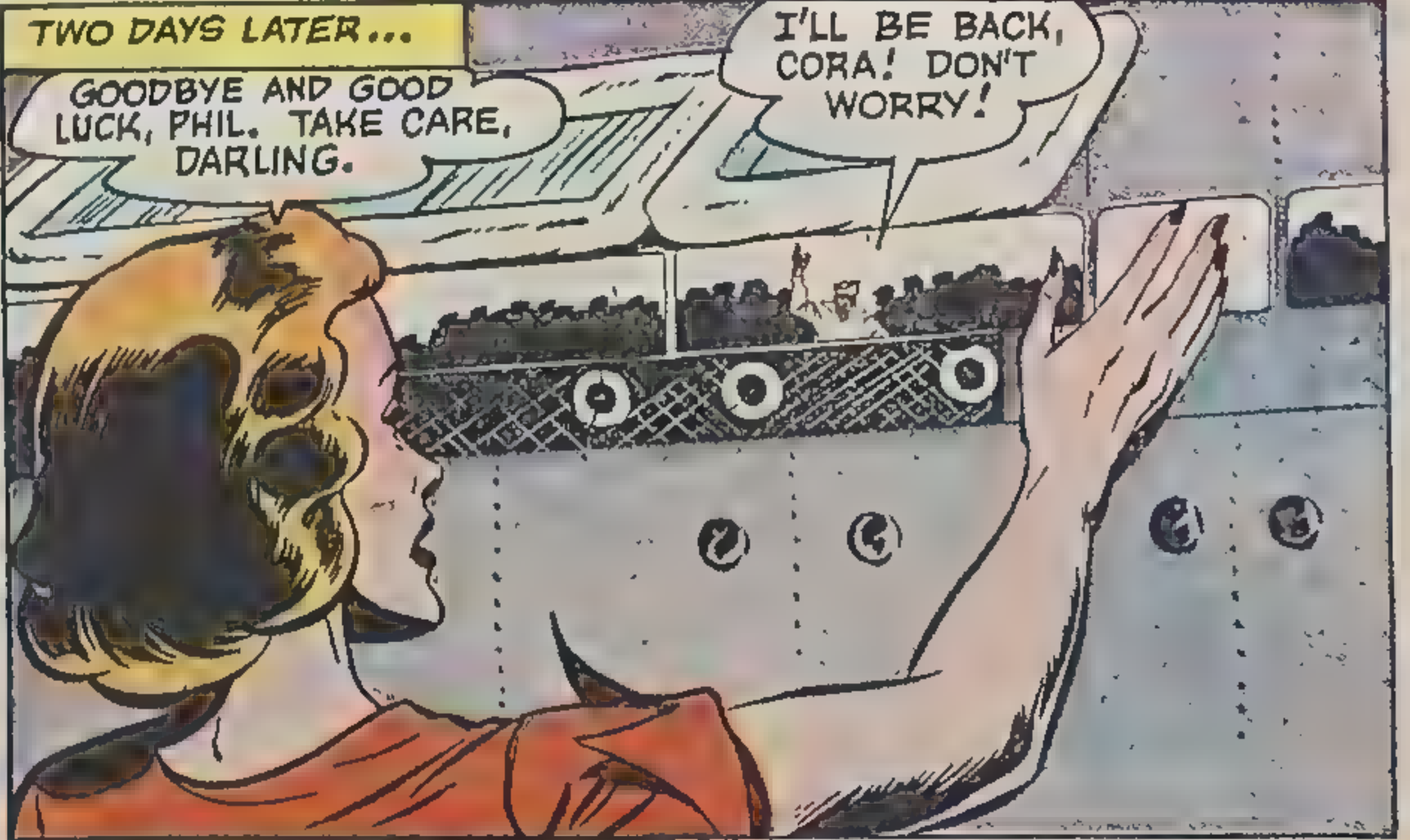
AS SOON AS CORA ARRIVED IN NORFOLK, SHE AND PHIL WERE MARRIED!



TWO DAYS LATER...

GOODBYE AND GOOD LUCK, PHIL. TAKE CARE, DARLING.

I'LL BE BACK, CORA! DON'T WORRY!

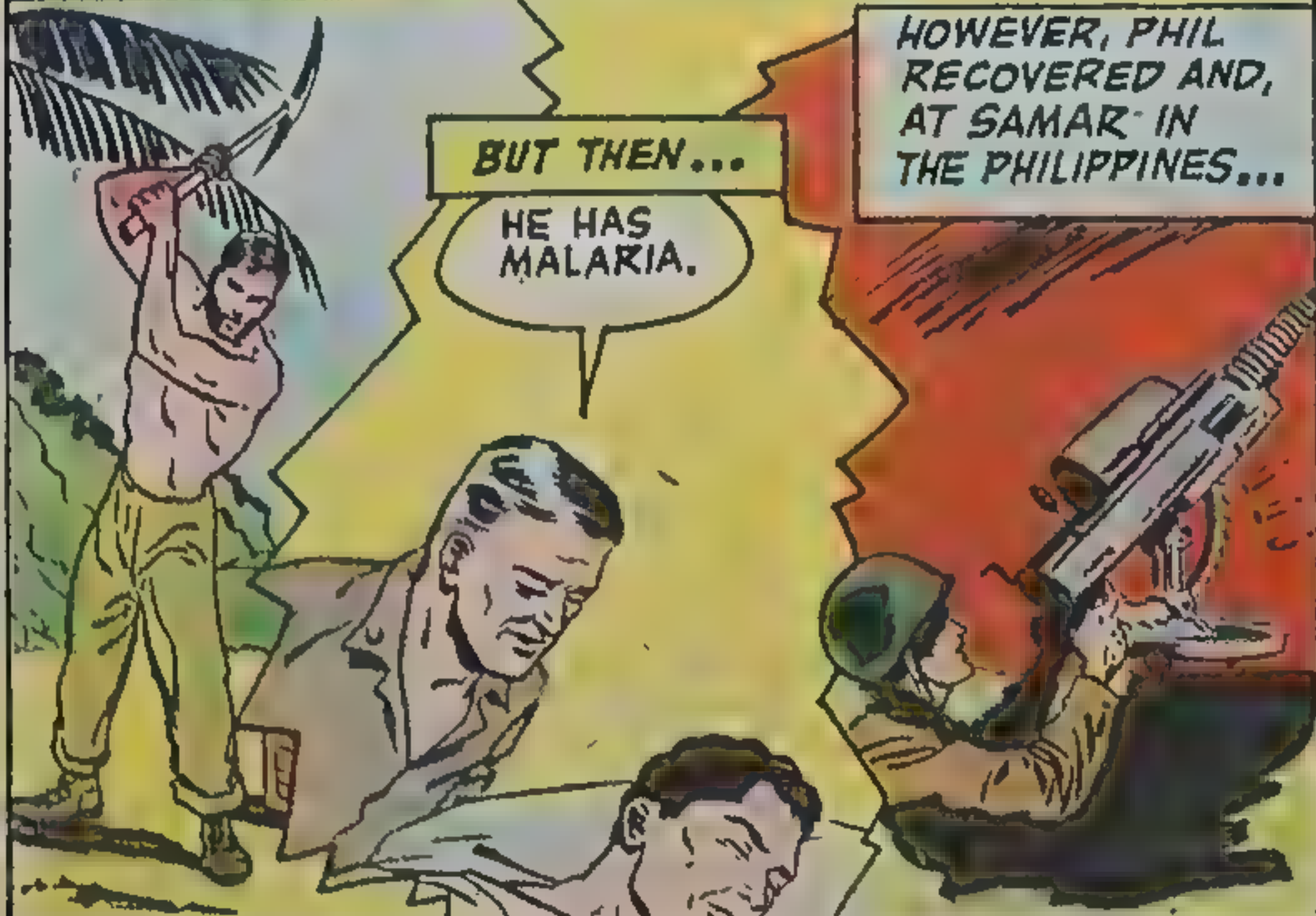


IN NEW GUINEA, PHIL WORKED WITH THE FAMOUS SEABEES!

BUT THEN...

HE HAS MALARIA.

HOWEVER, PHIL RECOVERED AND, AT SAMAR IN THE PHILIPPINES...



SHE'S BEAUTIFUL!





# PHIL RIZZUTO, BASEBALL HERO

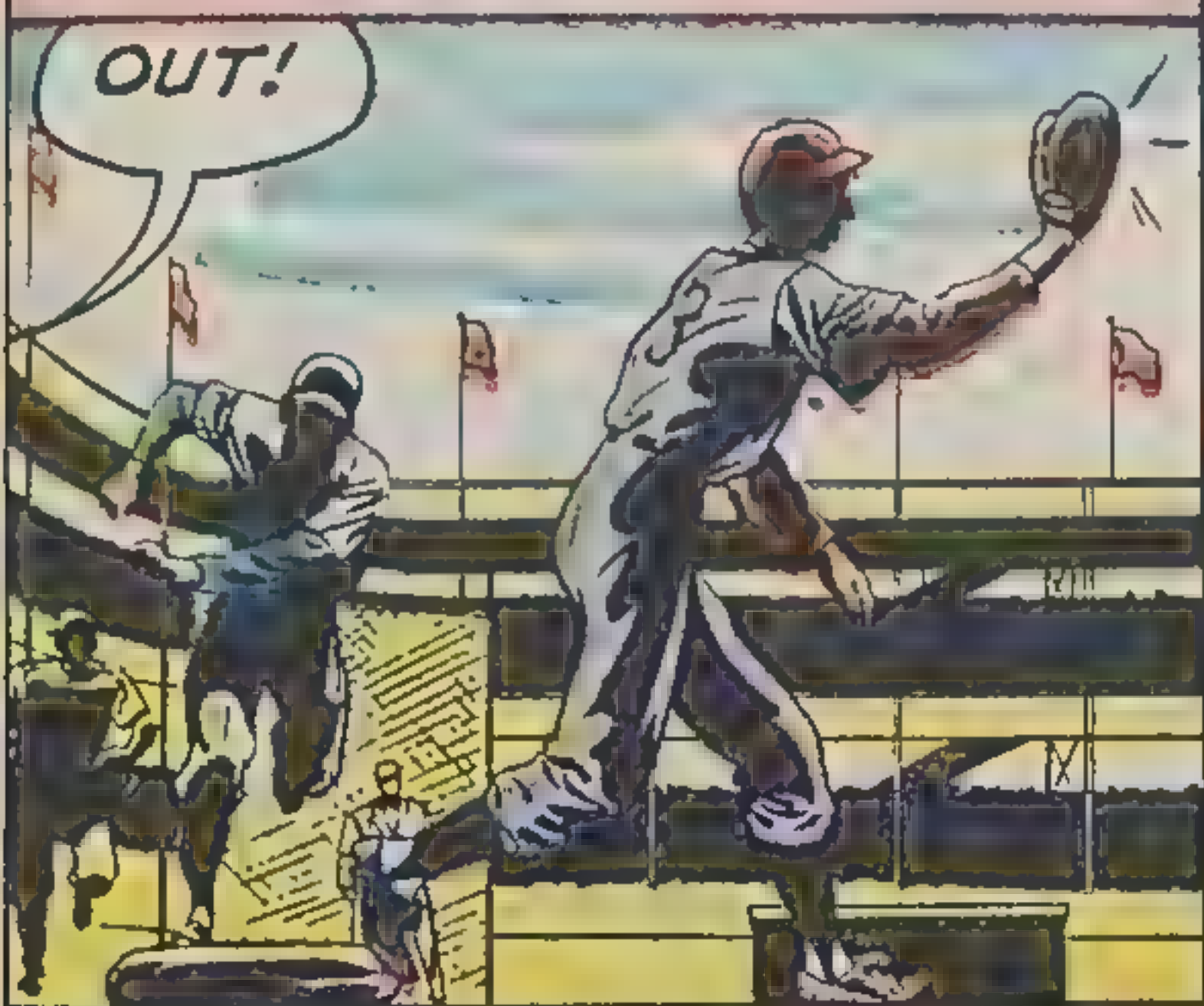
IN OCTOBER, 1945, JUST AFTER THE DETROIT TIGERS HAD WON THE WORLD SERIES, PHIL RETURNED HOME AFTER TWENTY-ONE MONTHS OVERSEAS.



AT THE ST. PETERSBURG YANKEE TRAINING CAMP IN THE SPRING OF 1946...



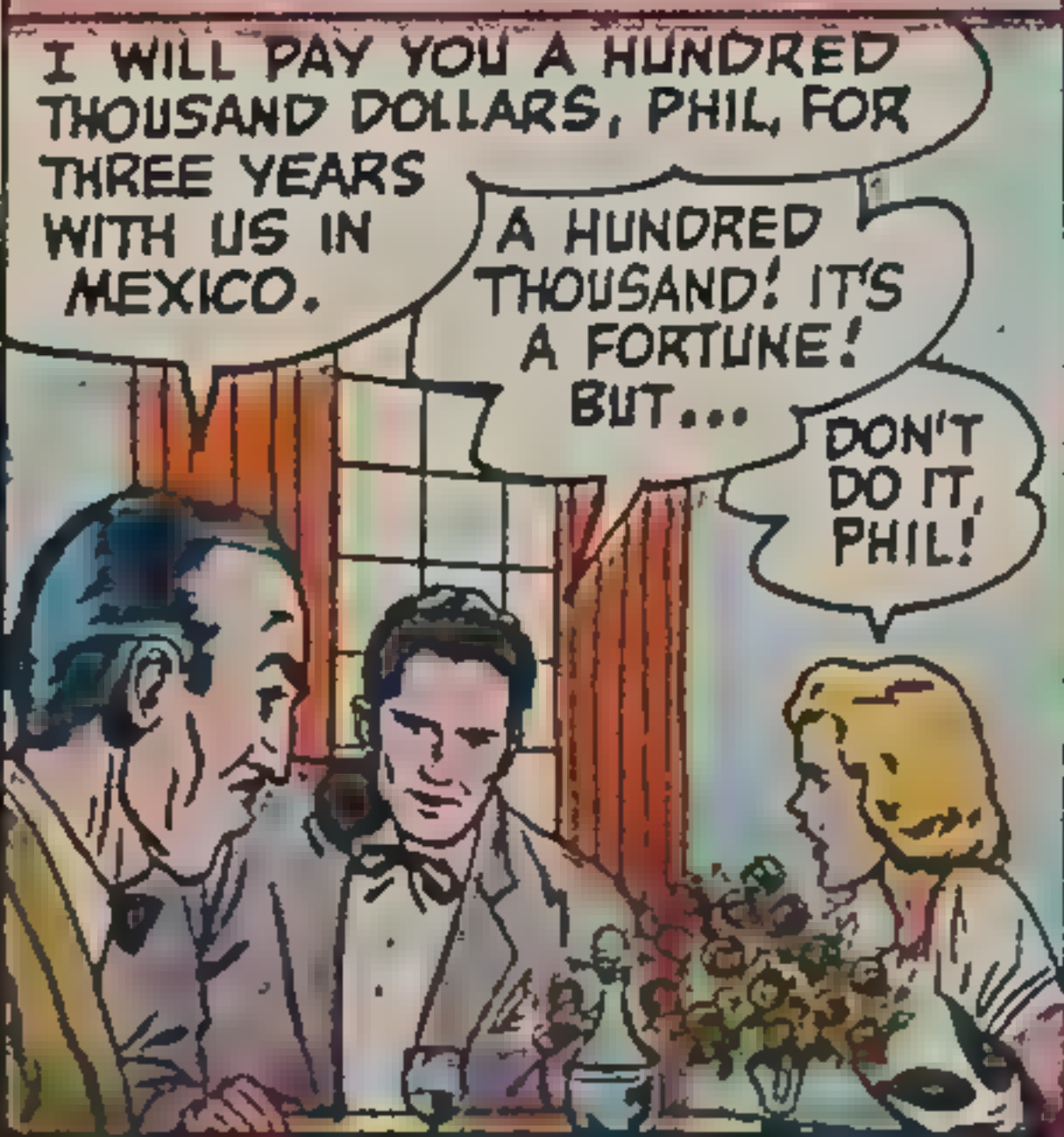
BUT AS THE SEASON BEGAN, PHIL, STILL BOTHERED BY TROPICAL MALARIA, WAS HITTING ONLY .180!



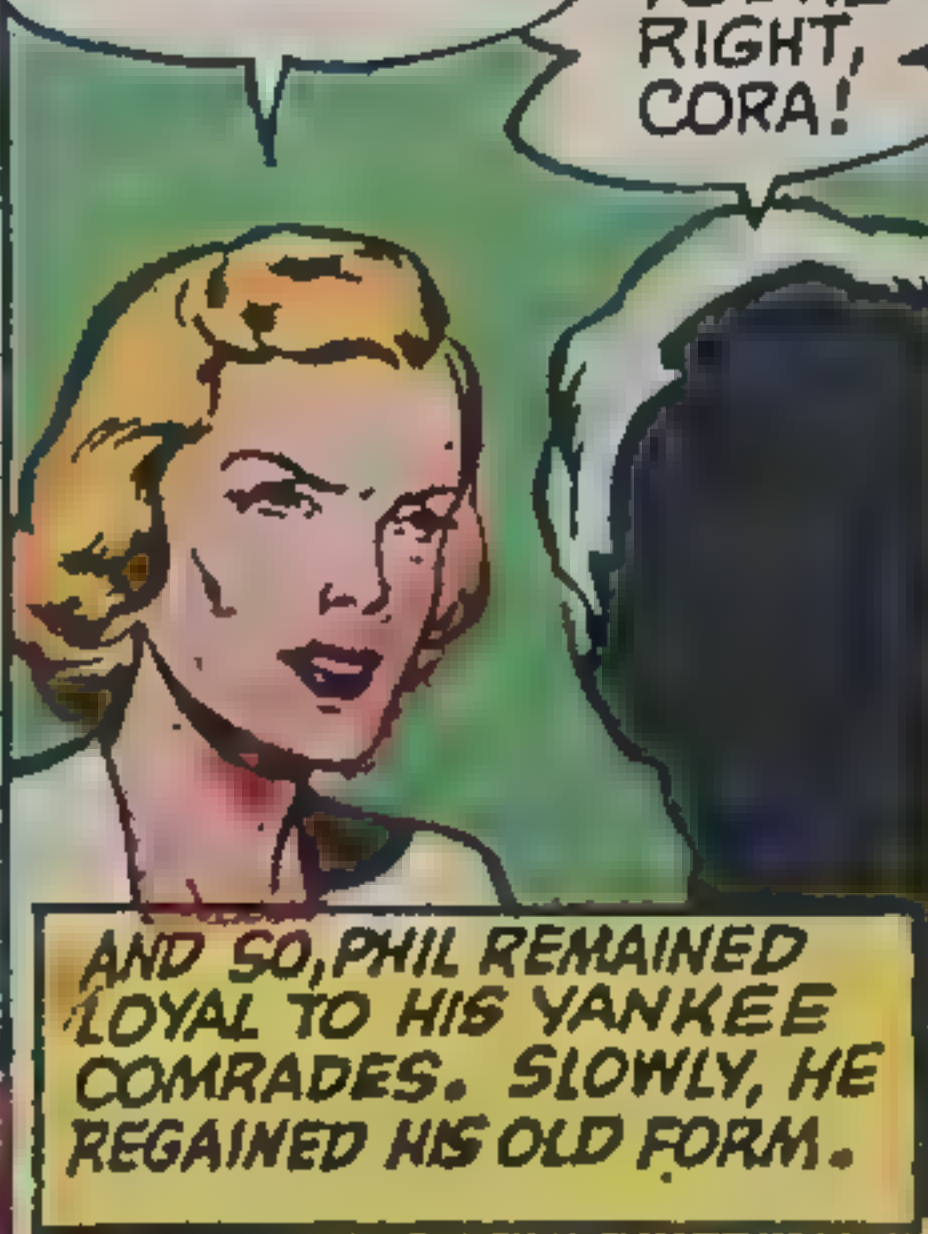
WORRIED BY HIS FAILURE TO RETURN TO HIS OLD FORM, PHIL ANSWERED A MYSTERIOUS LETTER WHICH ASKED HIM TO MEET A STRANGER IN A DARK STREET UNDER A BRIDGE.



PHIL HURRIED HOME TO TELL CORA. THE NEXT NIGHT, THEY VISITED A LUXURIOUS SUITE IN A FAMED NEW YORK HOTEL.

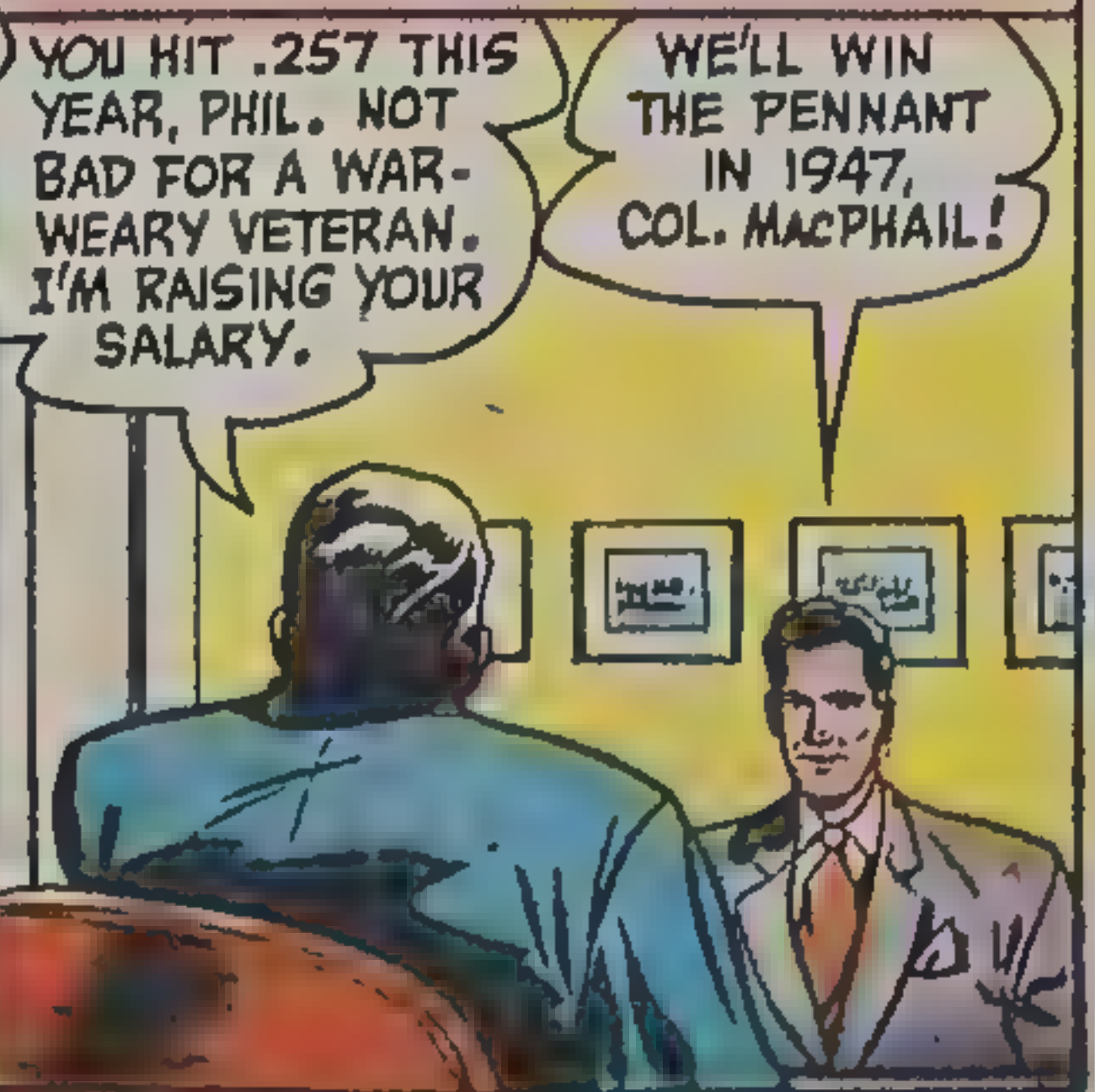


YOU'D BE EXILED FROM BASEBALL, PHIL. YOU'D LOSE YOUR OLD FRIENDS. YOU'D BETRAY THE YANKEES!



AND SO, PHIL REMAINED LOYAL TO HIS YANKEE COMRADES. SLOWLY, HE REGAINED HIS OLD FORM.

UNDER MANAGER BILL DICKEY, THE YANKS FINISHED THIRD IN 1946! IN THE OFFICE OF COL. LARRY MACPHAIL, PRESIDENT OF THE YANKEES...





# PHIL RIZZUTO, BASEBALL HERO

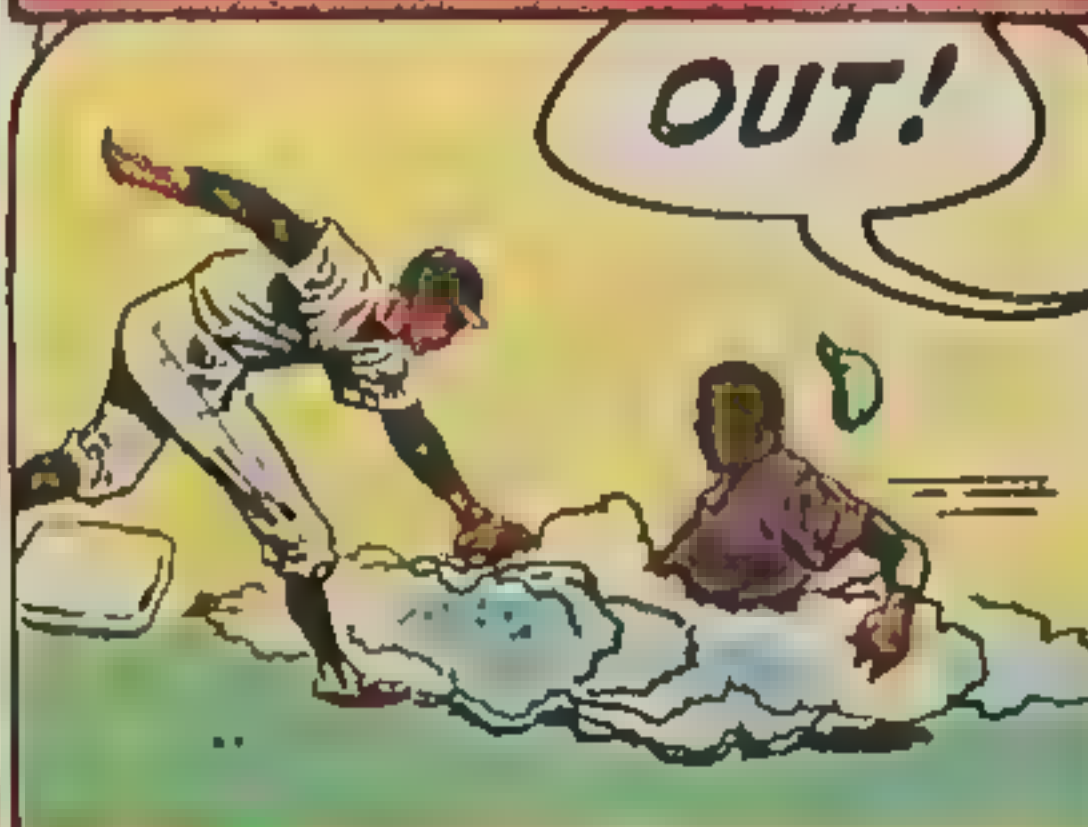
**L**ED BY  
MANAGER BUCKY  
HARRIS, THE  
YANKS SOARED  
INTO THE LEAD  
WITH A NINETEEN-  
GAME WINNING  
STREAK IN  
MID-SUMMER,  
CAPTURING THE  
1947 PENNANT  
BY TWELVE GAMES!  
REGAINING HIS  
PRE-WAR FORM,  
THE SCOOTER  
BATTED .273!

THE BROOKLYN DODGERS FACED THE CHAMPION YANKEES IN THE MOST THRILLING WORLD SERIES OF ALL TIME. WITH THE DODGERS LEADING, 1 TO 0, IN THE FIFTH INNING, PHIL WALKED IN THE OPENING GAME, AND SCORED ON HENRICH'S SINGLE IN A FIVE-RUN RALLY AS THE YANKS WON 5 TO 3!



PHIL'S DOUBLE IN THE THIRD INNING OF THE SECOND GAME SCORED JOHNSON TO GIVE THE YANKS A 2 TO 1 LEAD. THEY WON, 10 TO 3!

FLEET JACKIE ROBINSON SINGLED IN THE THIRD GAME AND STOLE SECOND. BUT PHIL QUICKLY GRABBED STIRNWEISS' TOSS OF BERRA'S POOR THROW, AND...



PHIL HANDLED SEVEN CHANCES FLAWLESSLY IN THE FIELD AND ALSO SINGLED! STILL, THE DODGERS WON, 9 TO 8.

IN THE FOURTH GAME...



THAT DAY, LAVAGETTO'S FAMOUS DOUBLE IN THE NINTH INNING BEAT THE YANKS, 3 TO 2, TIEING THE SERIES!

THE SERIES WAS STILL TIED WHEN THE YANKS AND DODGERS SPLIT THE NEXT TWO GAMES. THEN, IN THE SEVENTH AND FINAL BATTLE, WITH THE YANKS TRAILING, 2 TO 0, PHIL'S SINGLE IN THE SECOND TALLIED McQUINN WITH THE FIRST BOMBER RUN!

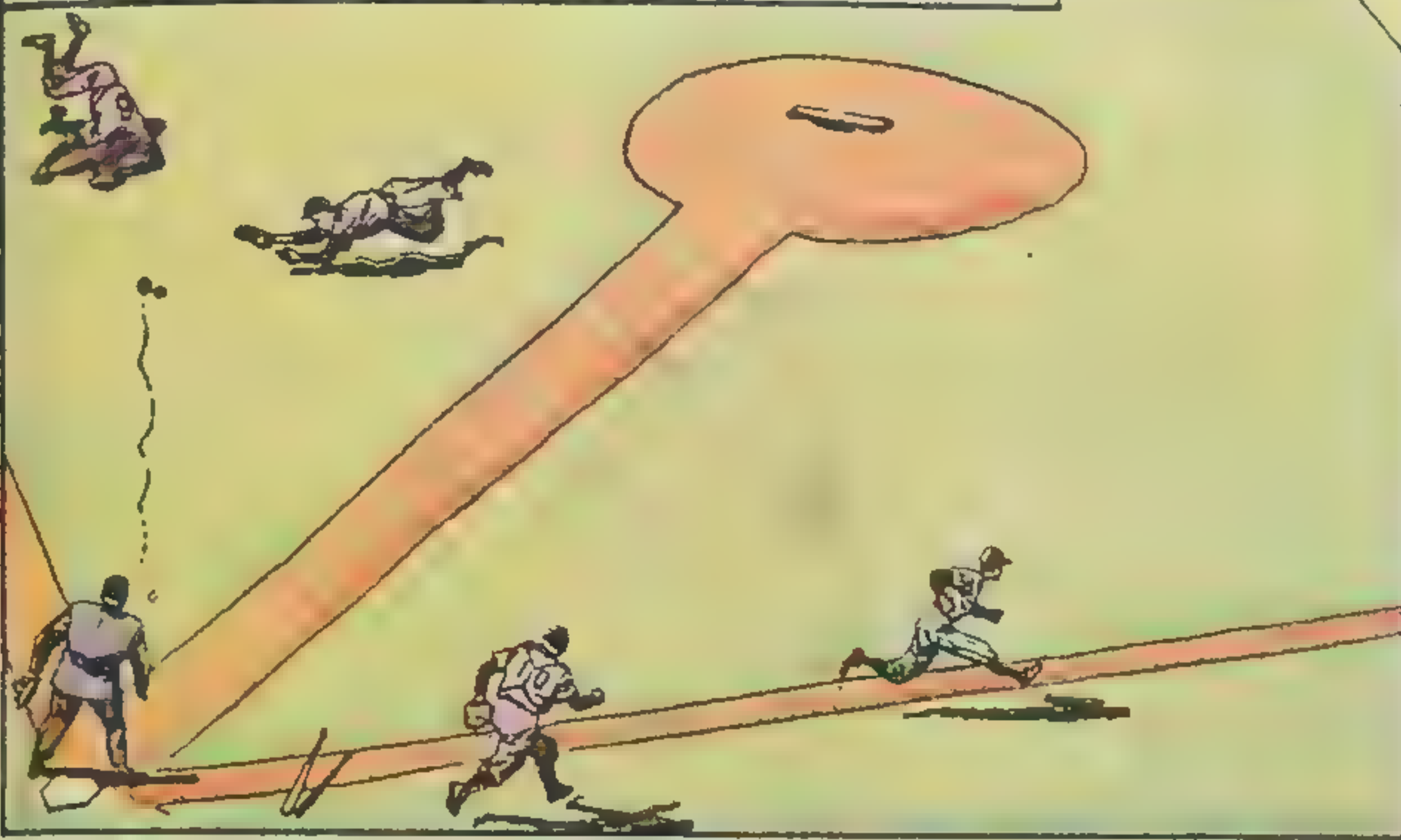


AND IN THE FOURTH INNING, PHIL STARTED A TWO-RUN RALLY, SCORING LATER ON HENRICH'S SINGLE!





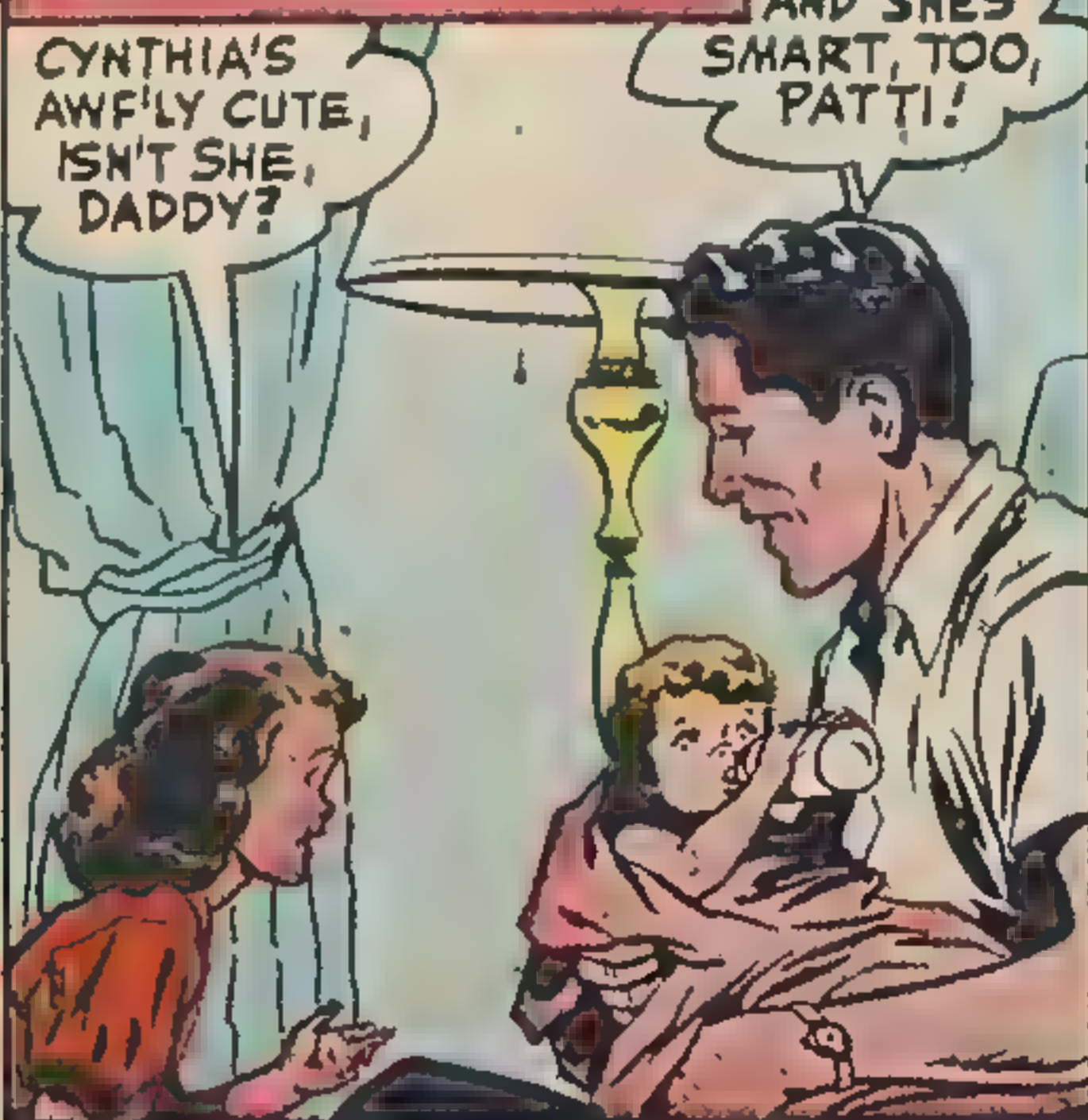
THEN, IN THE SIXTH INNING, PHIL BEAT OUT A BUNT...



... AND STOLE SECOND TO SCORE ON ALLIE CLARK'S SINGLE! PHIL'S THREE HITS WERE GOOD FOR THREE RUNS, CINCHING THE WORLD'S CHAMPIONSHIP FOR THE YANKS IN A 5 TO 2 TRIUMPH! HIS EIGHTEEN SERIES' PUT-OUTS WERE A RECORD!



MEANWHILE, PHIL'S FAMILY WAS GROWING!



CYNTHIA'S AWF'LY CUTE, ISN'T SHE, DADDY?

AND SHE'S SMART, TOO, PATTI!

THE YANKEES SLUMPED TO THIRD PLACE IN 1948. WERE THE OLD HEROES, DIMAGGIO... HENRICH, SLOWING UP? WAS LITTLE PHIL RIZZUTO, WITH A .252 AVERAGE, ALMOST THROUGH? MANAGER HARRIS LEFT AND VETERAN CASEY STENGEL TOOK HIS PLACE.

AT THE 1949 SPRING TRAINING CAMP...

I HEAR YOUR ARM'S GONE BAD, PHIL.

IS IT TRUE YOUR EYES BOTHER YOU?

HEY, FELLOWS, I'M NOT READY FOR THE OLD MEN'S HOME YET!



THE YANKS RECEIVED A STUNNING BLOW WHEN JOLTIN' JOE DIMAGGIO WAS FORCED TO QUIT THE TEAM.

WHAT DID THEY SAY, JOE?

BONE SPUR ON MY HEEL, PHIL. BUT AS LONG AS YOU'RE PLAYING SHORT, I DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE TEAM.



INSPIRED BY JOE'S GREAT SPIRIT, PHIL BEGAN THE SEASON WITH A STREAK OF BASE HITS AS TOMMY HENRICH BELTED HOME RUNS.

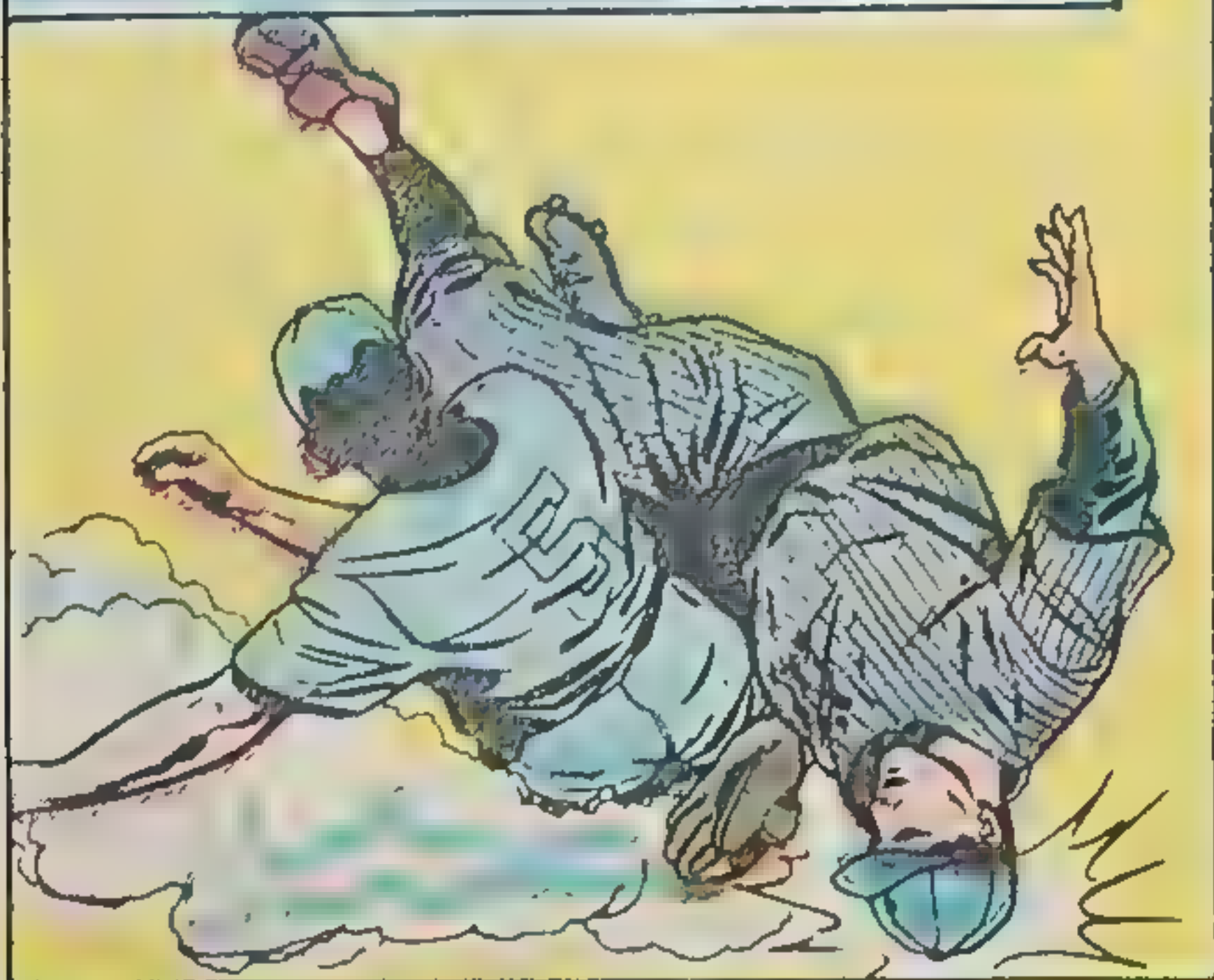
PUT IT THERE, TOMMY!





# PHIL RIZZUTO, BASEBALL HERO

IN JUNE, JOHNNY PESKY OF THE RED SOX CRASHED INTO PHIL IN A PLAY AT SECOND!



PHIL WAS RUSHED TO A HOSPITAL.

LOOKS AS IF YOU HAVE A CONCUSSION, PHIL.

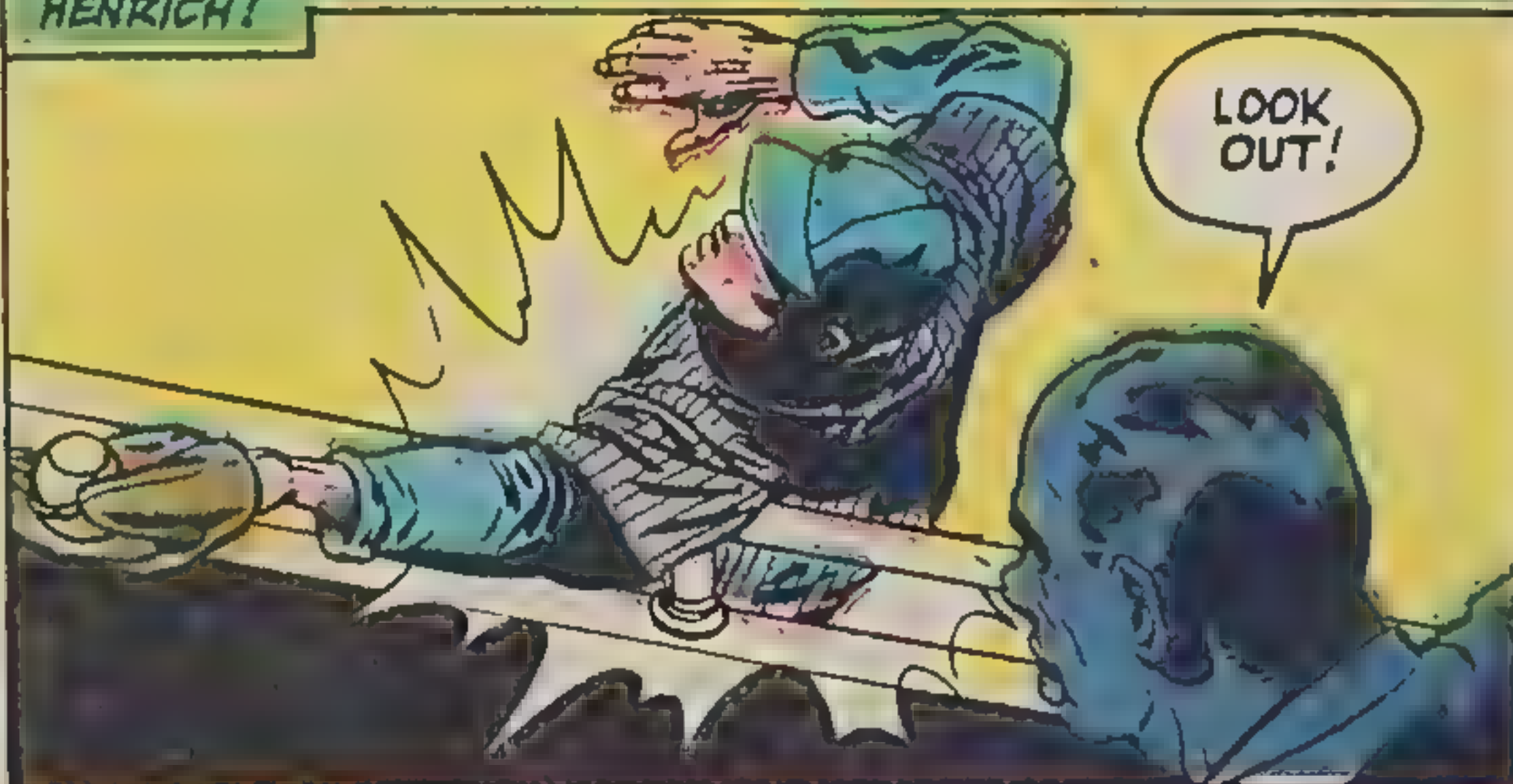
MAYBE SO, DOC. BUT I'VE GOT TO PLAY TOMORROW!



THE NEXT DAY, PHIL DID PLAY, GETTING THREE HITS AND STARTING TWO DOUBLE PLAYS!

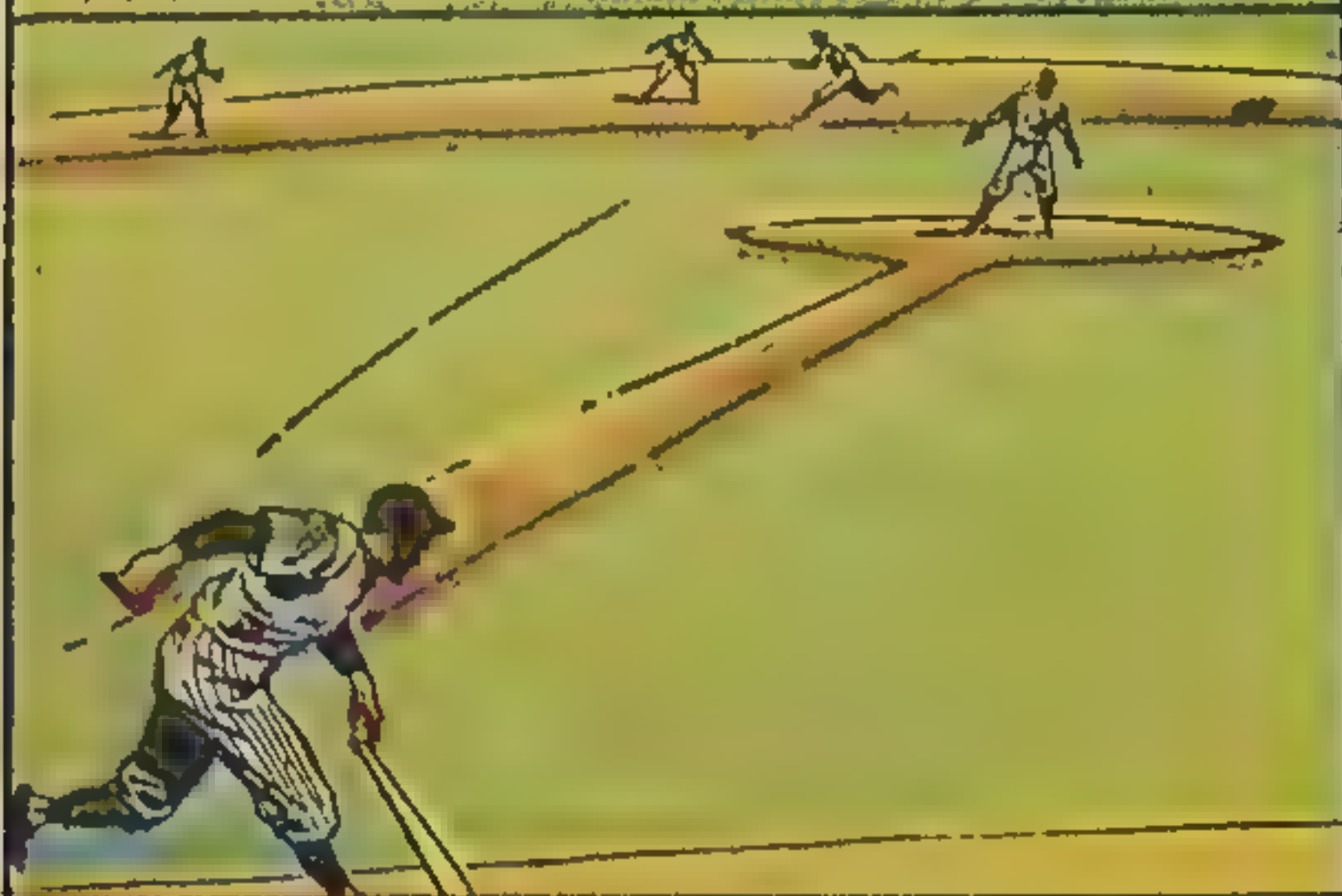


JOE DIMAGGIO RETURNED TO THE YANKEES IN JULY, HITTING FOUR HOMERS IN THREE GAMES. BUT IN AUGUST, WITH THE YANKS LEADING THE LEAGUE, THE INJURY JINX HIT AT TOMMY HENRICH!



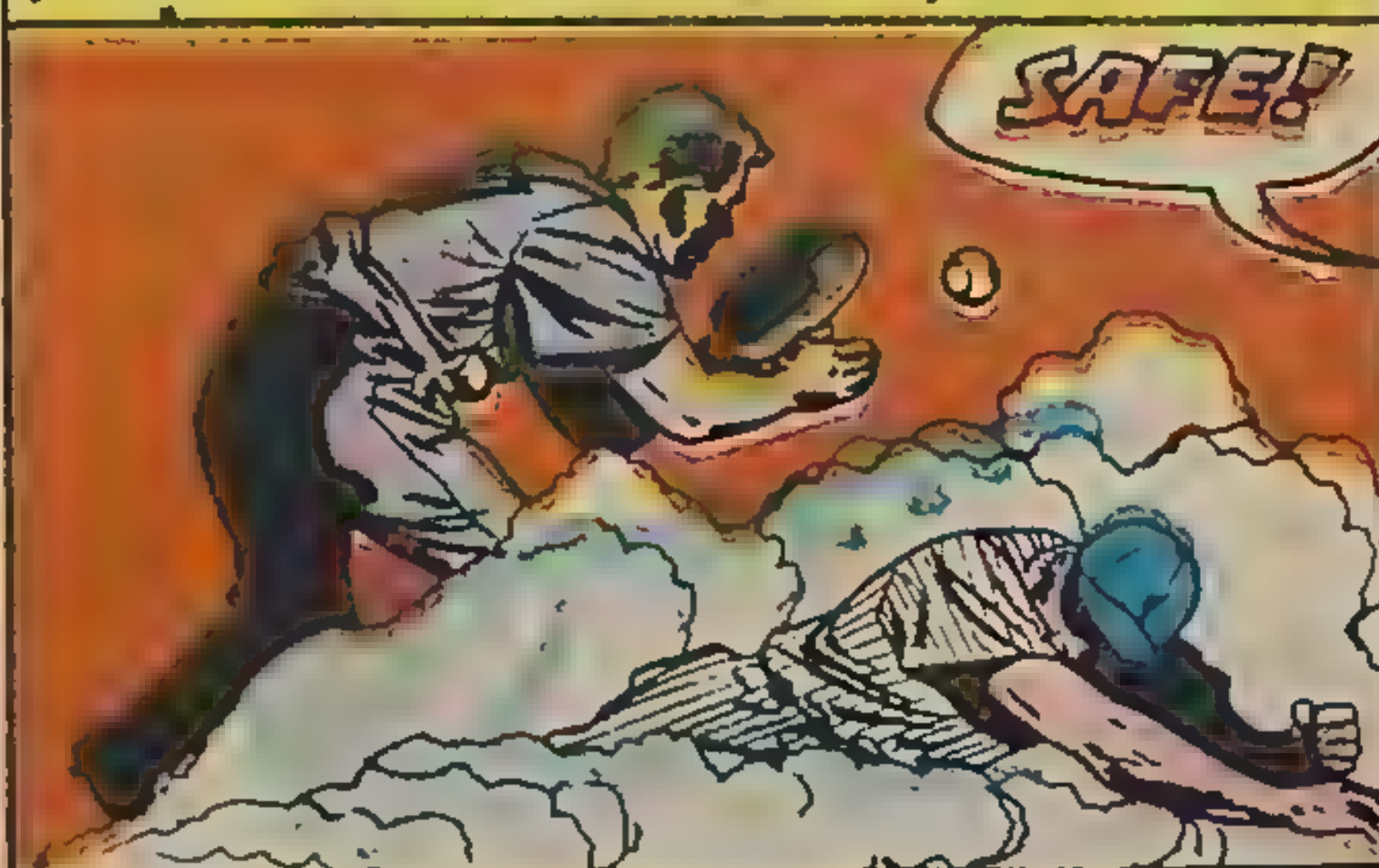
SLAMMING INTO THE FENCE IN A MAGNIFICENT TRY FOR A FLY BALL, THE OUTFIELDER INJURED HIS BACK AND THE YANKS WERE FIGHTING FOR THEIR LIVES AGAIN!

THE YANKEES AND RED SOX WERE TIED IN THE PENNANT RACE ON OCTOBER FIRST. IN THE FIFTH INNING THAT DAY, WITH THE SOX LEADING, 4 TO 2, PHIL SINGLED, RACING ALL THE WAY HOME ON YOGI BERRA'S TWO-BAGGER!



THE YANKS WON ON LINDELL'S HOMER IN THE EIGHTH, TAKING THE LEAD IN THE PENNANT RACE!

THE YANKS NEEDED ONE MORE GAME TO CINCH THE PENNANT! ON OCTOBER SECOND THE "MIGHTY MITE" LED OFF WITH A RESOUNDING TRIPLE, SCORING ON A DARING SLIDE WHEN HENRICH BOUNCED TO DOERR!



PHIL'S RUN WAS THE MARGIN OF PENNANT VICTORY FOR THE YANKEES, AS THEY TOOK THE GAME, 5 TO 4!



# Phil's Championship Record -- 1949

AT BAT	614
RUNS	110
HITS	169
DOUBLES	22
TRIPLES	7
HOMERS	5
BATTING AVERAGE	.275
SLUGGING AVERAGE	.369
FIELDING AVERAGE	.971*
STOLEN BASES	18

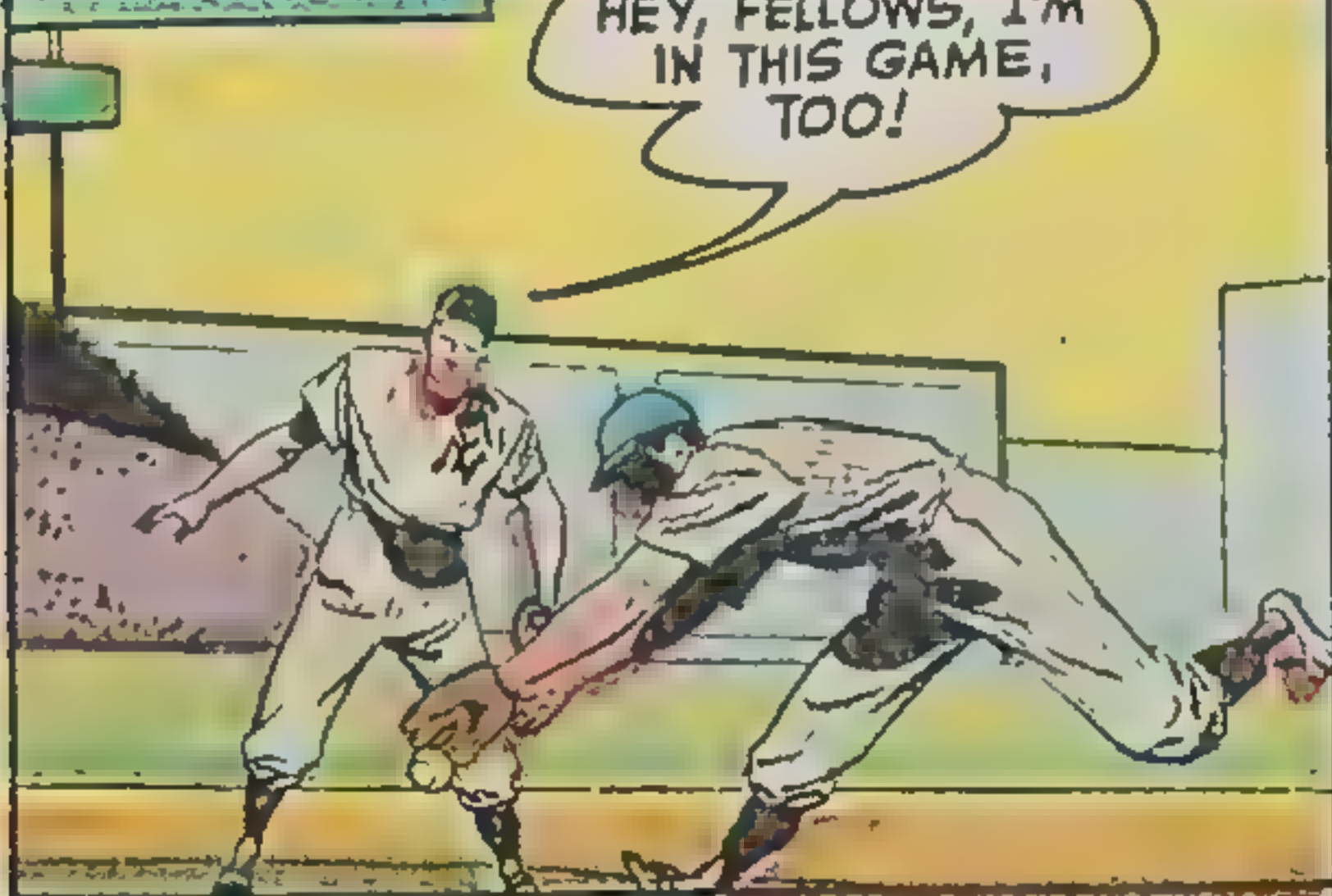
\* LED LEAGUE

AGAIN THE YANKS FACED THE DODGERS IN A BORO SERIES. AND "OLD RELIABLE" TOMMY HENRICH TOOK THE OPENER FROM DON NEWCOMBE, 1 TO 0, WITH A THRILLING NINTH INNING HOMER!



PREACHER ROE BLANKED THE YANKS, 1 TO 0, IN THE NEXT GAME. AT EBBETS FIELD, OCTOBER SEVENTH, PHIL'S NAME WENT INTO THE RECORD BOOKS AGAIN.

HEY, FELLOWS, I'M IN THIS GAME, TOO!



FOR THE FIRST TIME IN SERIES' HISTORY, PHIL ACCEPTED NO CHANCES AT SHORTSTOP AS THE YANKS WON, 4 TO 3!

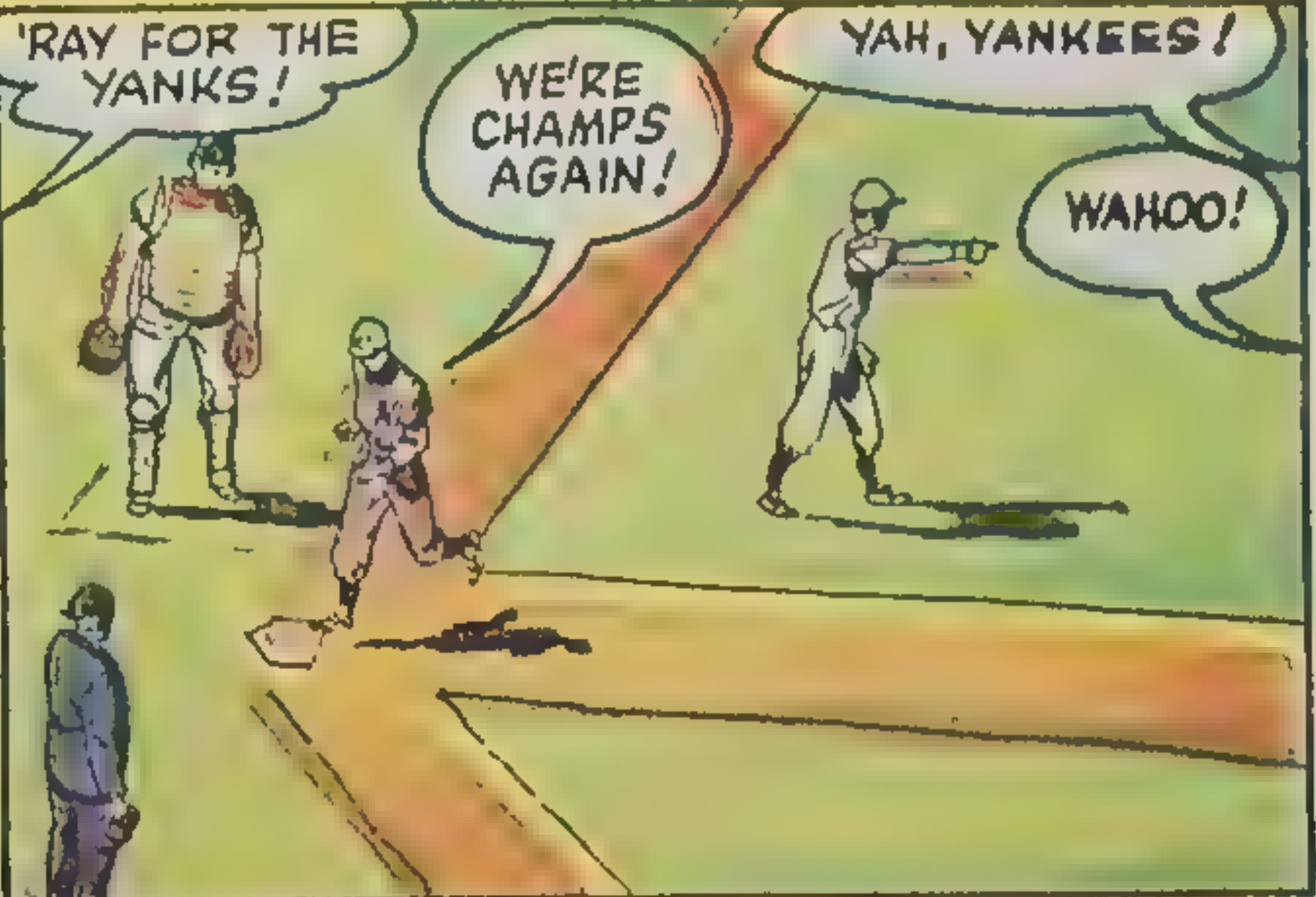
ROLLING ON TO VICTORY, THE YANKS TRIUMPHED, 6 TO 4, ON OCTOBER EIGHTH! IN THE SERIES' FINALE, PHIL WAS UP TO HIS OLD HIGH SCHOOL TRICKS, WALKING AND SCORING TWICE AS HIS MATES CONQUERED, 10 TO 6!

RAY FOR THE YANKS!

WE'RE CHAMPS AGAIN!

YAH, YANKEES!

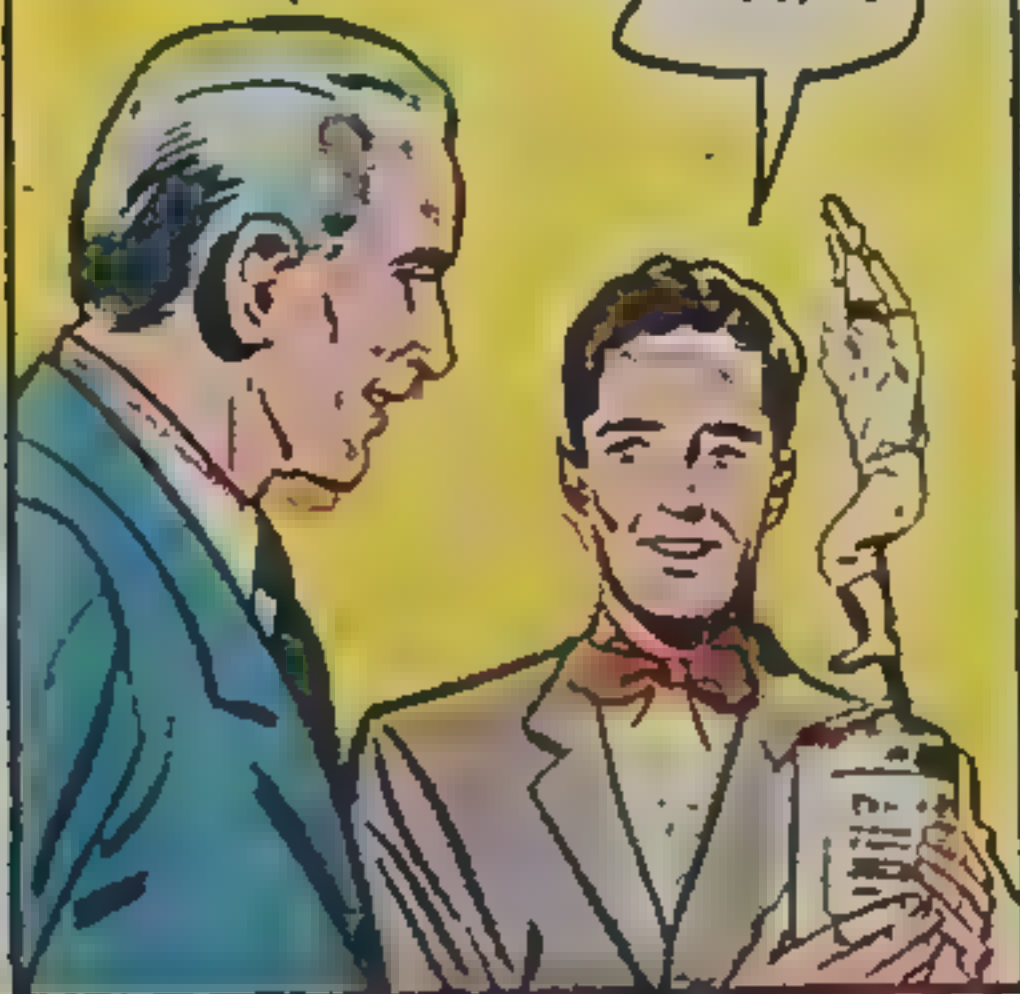
WAHOO!



HONORS WERE SHOWERED ON PHIL!

YOU ARE THE CHAMPION PROFESSIONAL ATHLETE OF AMERICA, PHIL RIZZUTO!

THANK YOU, SIR!



THAT FALL, PHIL VISITED GENERAL MANAGER GEORGE M. WEISS OF THE NEW YORK YANKEES.

NEXT YEAR YOU WILL BE THE HIGHEST PAID SHORTSTOP IN THE HISTORY OF BASEBALL, PHIL! YOUR CONTRACT CALLS FOR FORTY THOUSAND DOLLARS!

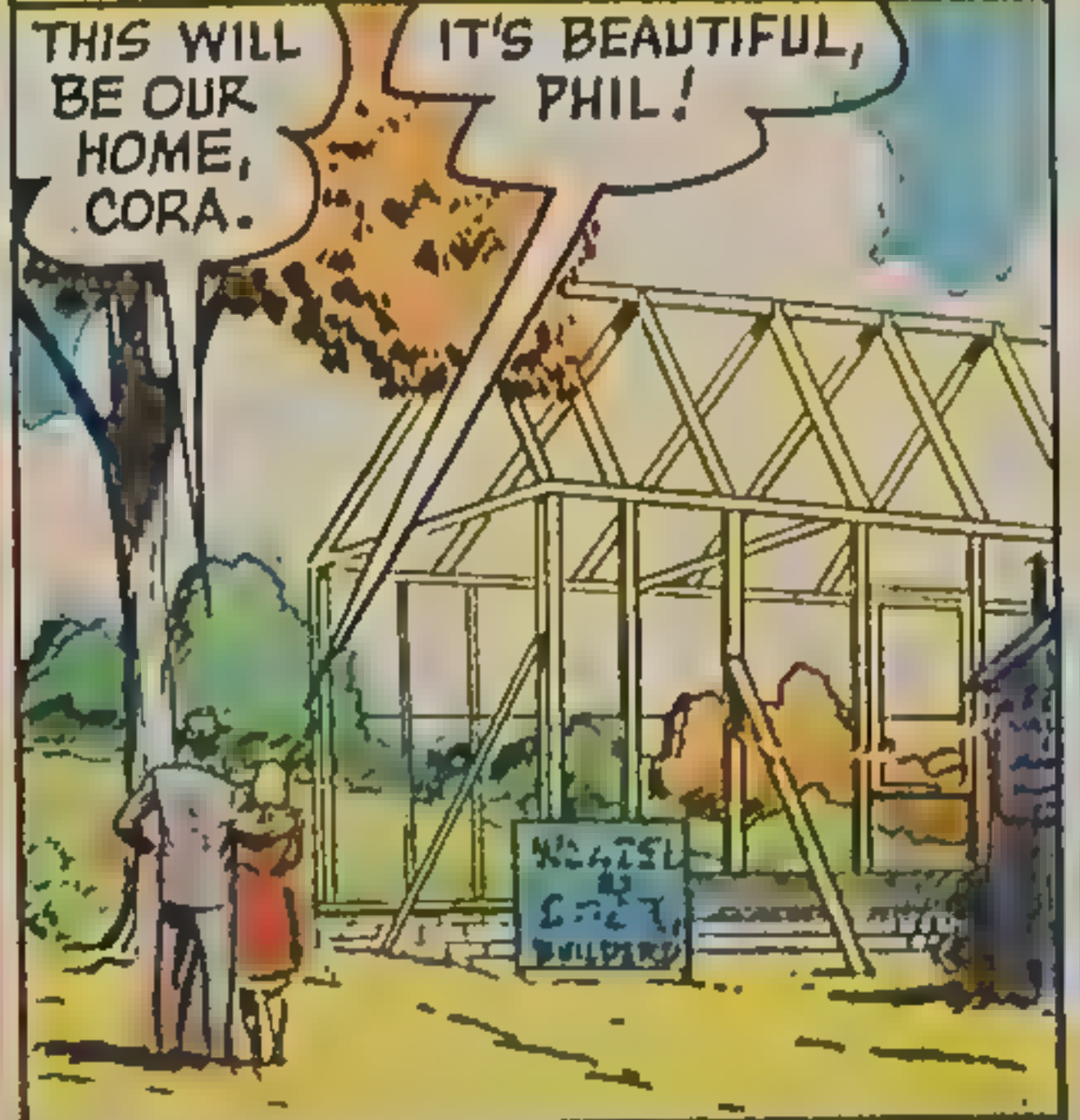
CONTRACT.  
NEW YORK YANKEES  
FORTY THOUSAND (\$40,000) DOLLARS  
George M. Weiss  
Phil Rizzuto



BUT PHIL HAD INTERESTS OTHER THAN BASEBALL, TOO!

THIS WILL BE OUR HOME, CORA.

IT'S BEAUTIFUL, PHIL!





PHIL RIZZUTO, BASEBALL HERO

AS THE 1950 TRAINING SEASON BEGAN, PHIL WATCHED VETERAN SLUGGER, JOHNNY MIZE, BLAST A TITANIC HOMER!



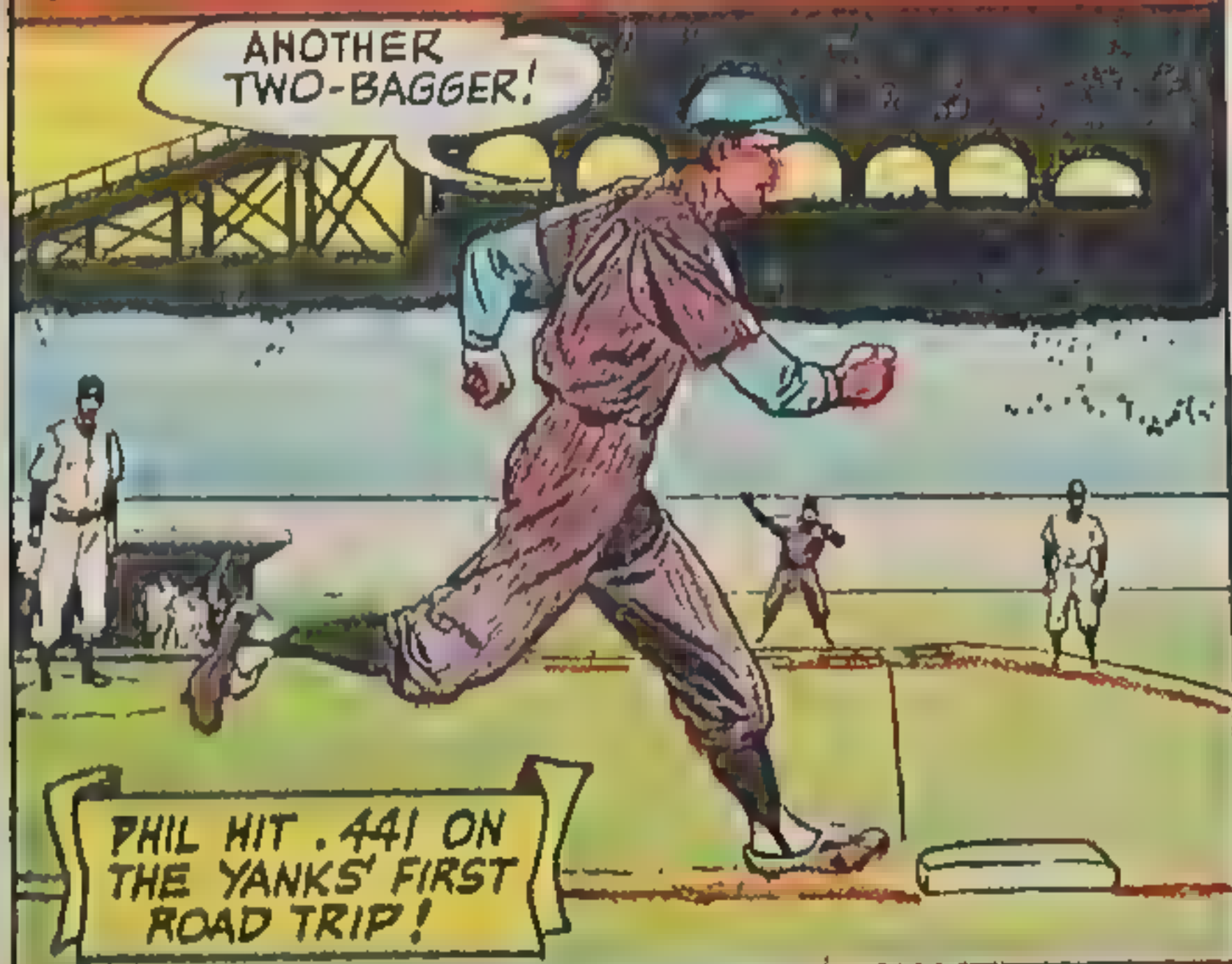
WISH I WAS AS BIG AS YOU, JOHNNY!

YOU'RE TOO SMALL TO HIT AS LONG AS I DO, PHIL. BUT YOU CAN INCREASE YOUR POWER BY USING A BIG BAT LIKE MINE.

I'LL TRY IT, JOHNNY.



WIELDING MIZE'S BIG BAT, PHIL OPENED THE SEASON WITH A FLURRY OF SINGLES, DOUBLES AND TRIPLES!



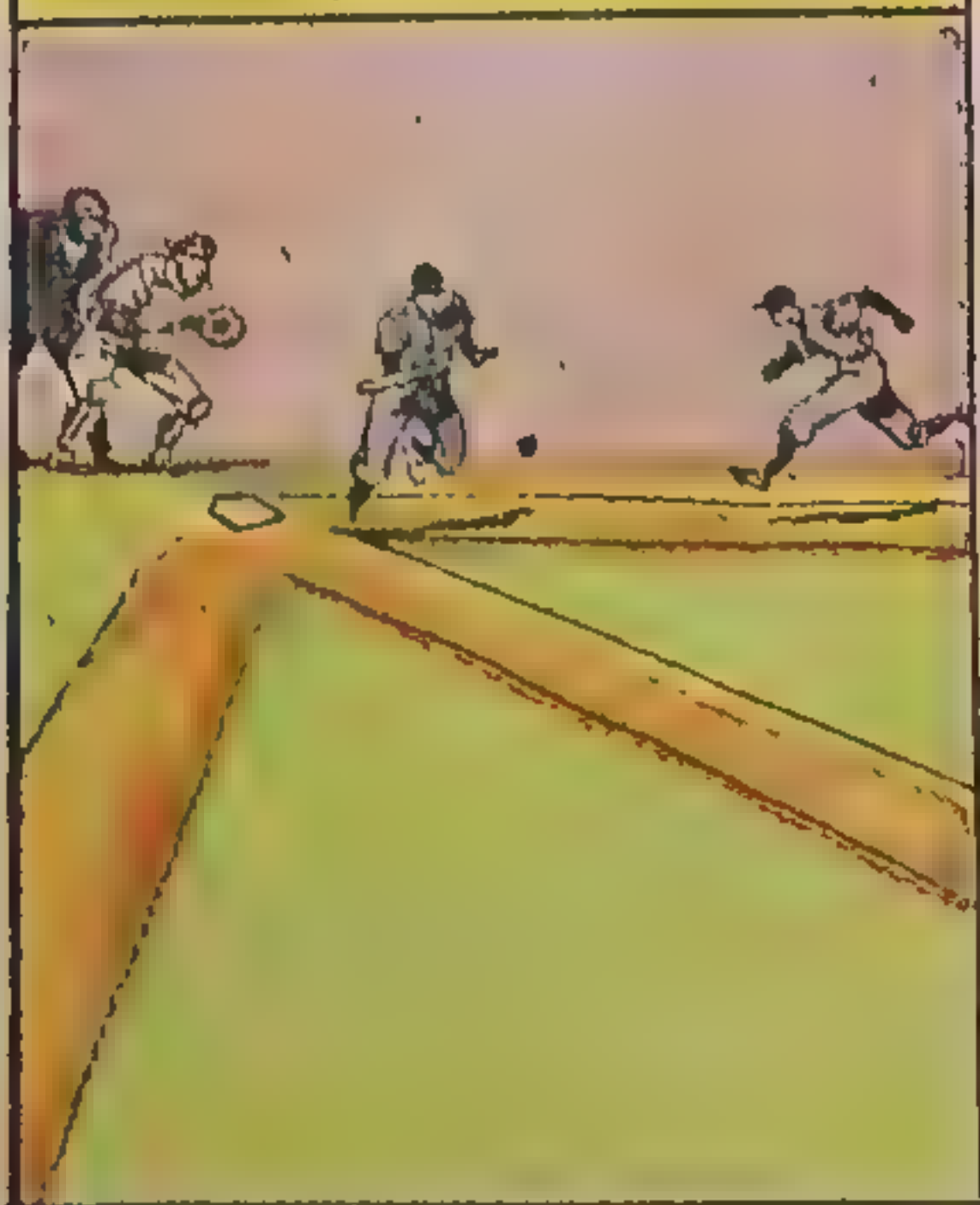
ANOTHER TWO-BAGGER!

PHIL HIT .441 ON THE YANKS' FIRST ROAD TRIP!

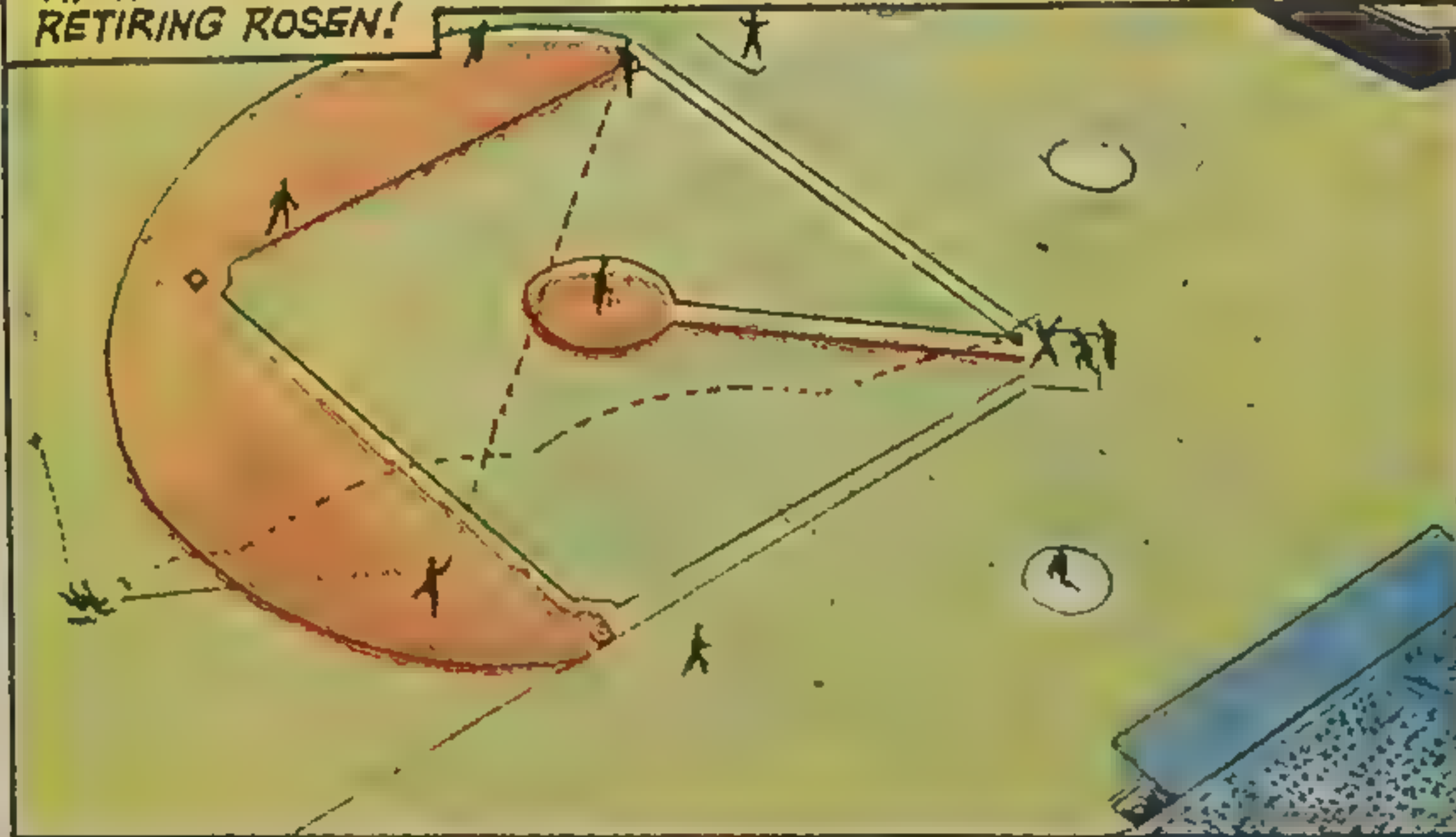
AGAINST THE RED SOX, COACH CROSETTI GAVE PHIL THE SQUEEZE BUNT SIGN.



THE SCOOTER'S NICELY-PLACED BUNT SCORED THE WINNING RUN!



PHIL'S FIELDING WAS MORE BRILLIANT THAN EVER WHEN, AGAINST CLEVELAND, HE EXECUTED THE RARE 6-5-3 PUT-OUT, SNARING ROSEN'S DRIVE TO DEEP SHORT AND FIRING THE BALL TO JOHNSON AT THIRD. JOHNSON THEN THREW ACROSS THE DIAMOND TO MIZE, RETIRING ROSEN!





# PHIL RIZZUTO, BASEBALL HERO

ON JUNE 8, PHIL MUFFED AN EASY GROUNDER TO SCORE HIS FIRST ERROR IN FIFTY-EIGHT GAMES! HE HAD ACCEPTED 288 CHANCES WITHOUT A MISCBUE, AN AMERICAN LEAGUE RECORD!



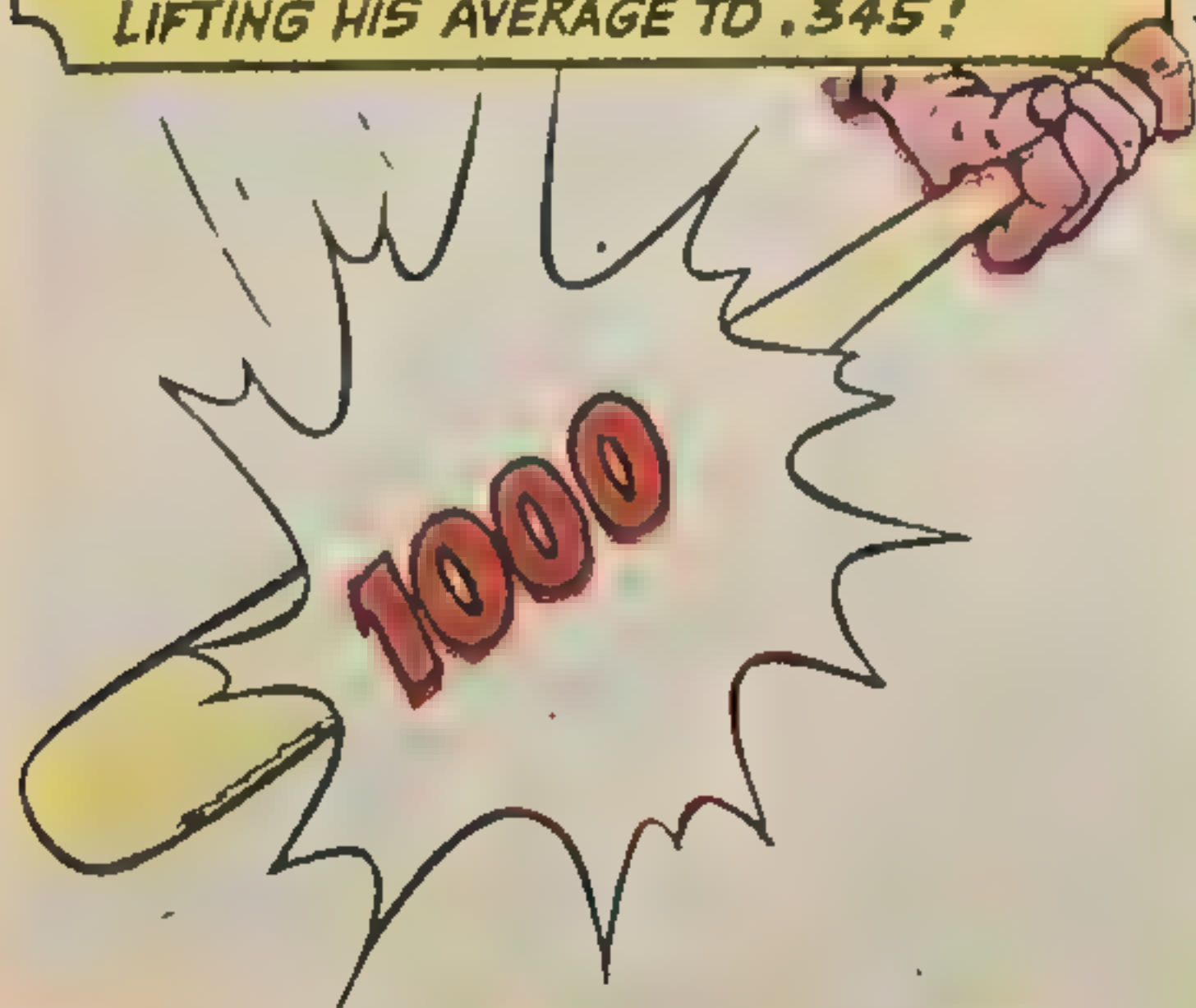
ON AUGUST 8, AT CLEVELAND...

THE TRAINER SAYS YOU'RE SICK, PHIL. I'M KEEPING YOU OUT OF THE GAME TODAY.

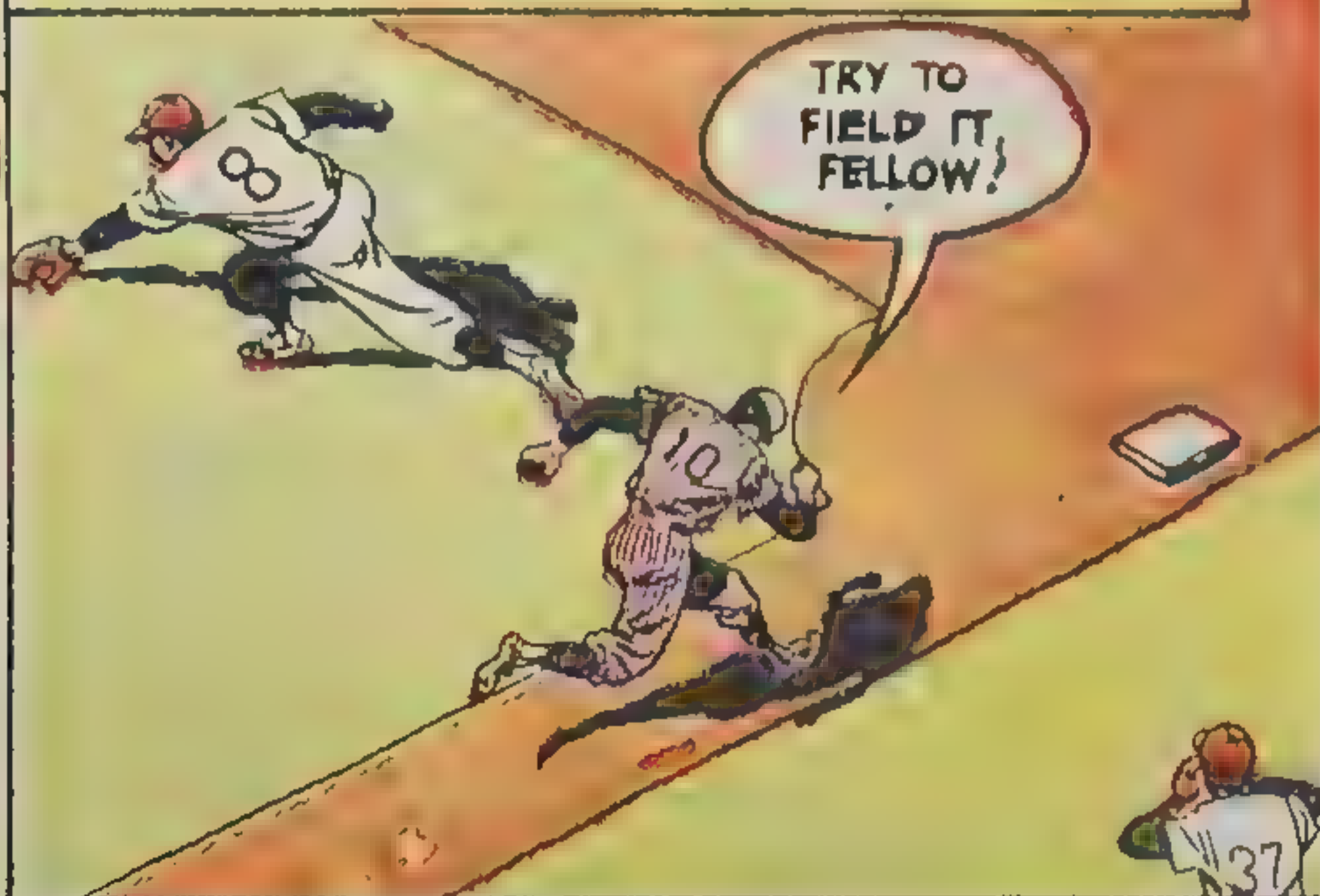
NOTHING DOING, CASEY! WE'VE GOT TO BEAT THOSE INDIANS!



IN HIS FIRST TIME AT BAT, PHIL CRACKED OUT HIS ONE THOUSANDTH MAJOR LEAGUE HIT! THAT DAY, HE ALSO MADE TWO DOUBLES AND A TRIPLE, LIFTING HIS AVERAGE TO .345!



PHIL'S TWO HUNDREDTH HIT OF THE 1950 SEASON, ON SEPTEMBER THIRTIETH, WAS A TYPICAL RIZZUTO BUNT!



YOU DID IT, PHIL!

WE WIN THE PENNANT!

GREAT WORK, SCOOTER!

WE ALL WON TOGETHER, FELLOWS!



## The SCOOTER'S SUPER RECORD-- 1950

AT BAT	617
RUNS	125
HITS	200*
DOUBLES	36*
TRIPLES	7
HOMERS	7*
RUNS BATTED IN	65*
BATTING AVERAGE	.324*
SLUGGING AVERAGE	.439*

\* HIGHEST IN PHIL'S MAJOR LEAGUE CAREER.



THE 1950 YANKEE TEAM TROUNCED THE PHILLY WHIZ KIDS IN FOUR STRAIGHT GAMES, AND AGAIN WERE CHAMPIONS OF THE WORLD! AT THE VICTORY DINNER AS MANAGER CASEY STENGEL LOOKED ON...

YOU'RE ALWAYS ON CHAMPIONSHIP CLUBS, PHIL.

TEN TIMES IN TWELVE SEASONS, MRS. BERRA!

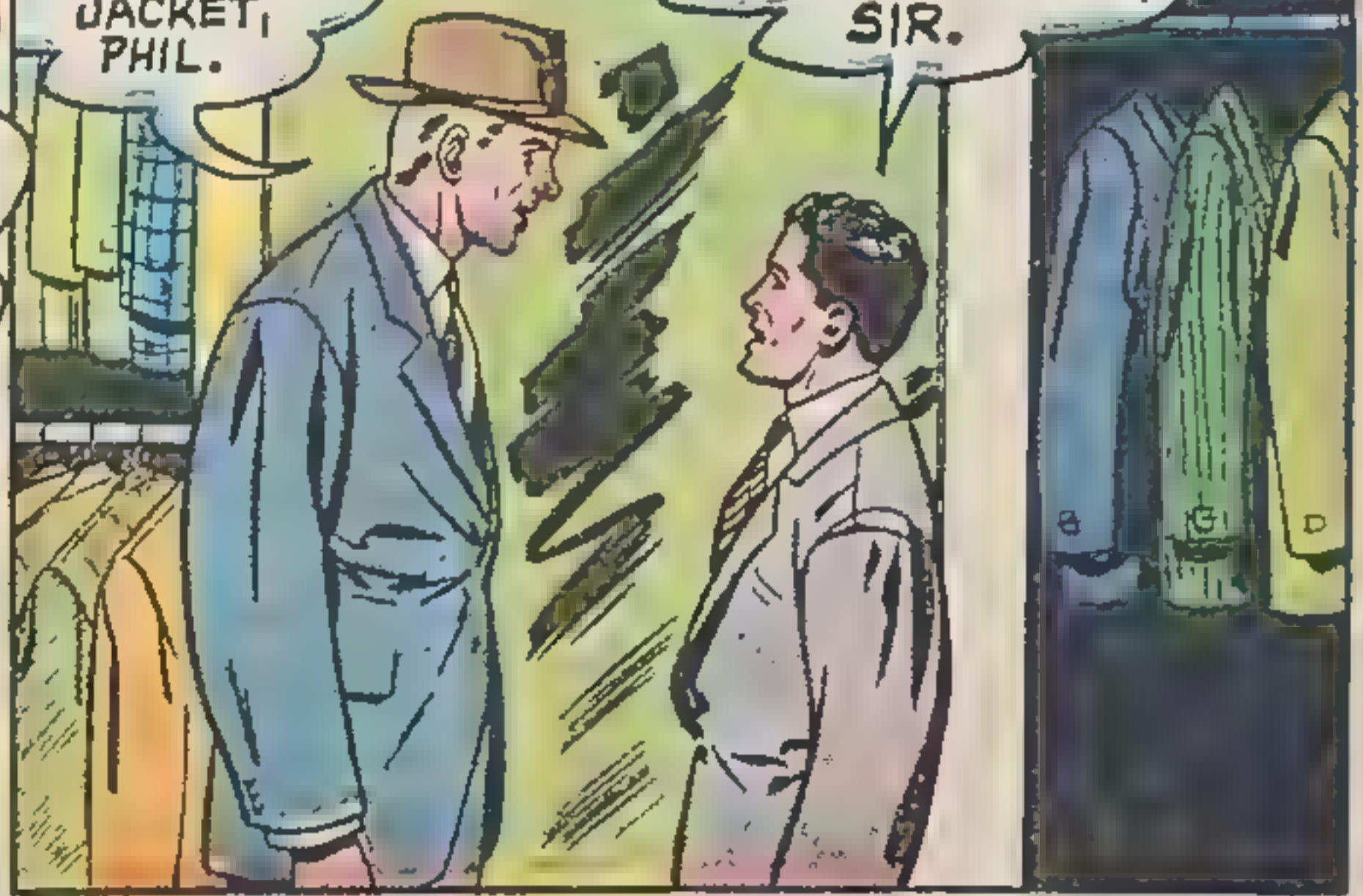
I'VE BEEN IN BASEBALL FORTY YEARS, AND PHIL'S MY ALL-TIME GREATEST SHORTSTOP!



DESPITE HIS FAME, PHIL WENT BACK TO WORK IN THE AMERICAN SHOPS, A NEWARK CLOTHING STORE.

I WANT TO BUY A SPORTS JACKET, PHIL.

WE'VE GOT JUST WHAT YOU WANT, SIR.



BUT PHIL'S SALE OF A SPORTS JACKET WAS INTERRUPTED BY SOME VISITORS!

THE BASEBALL WRITERS HAVE VOTED YOU THE AMERICAN LEAGUE'S MOST VALUABLE PLAYER, PHIL!

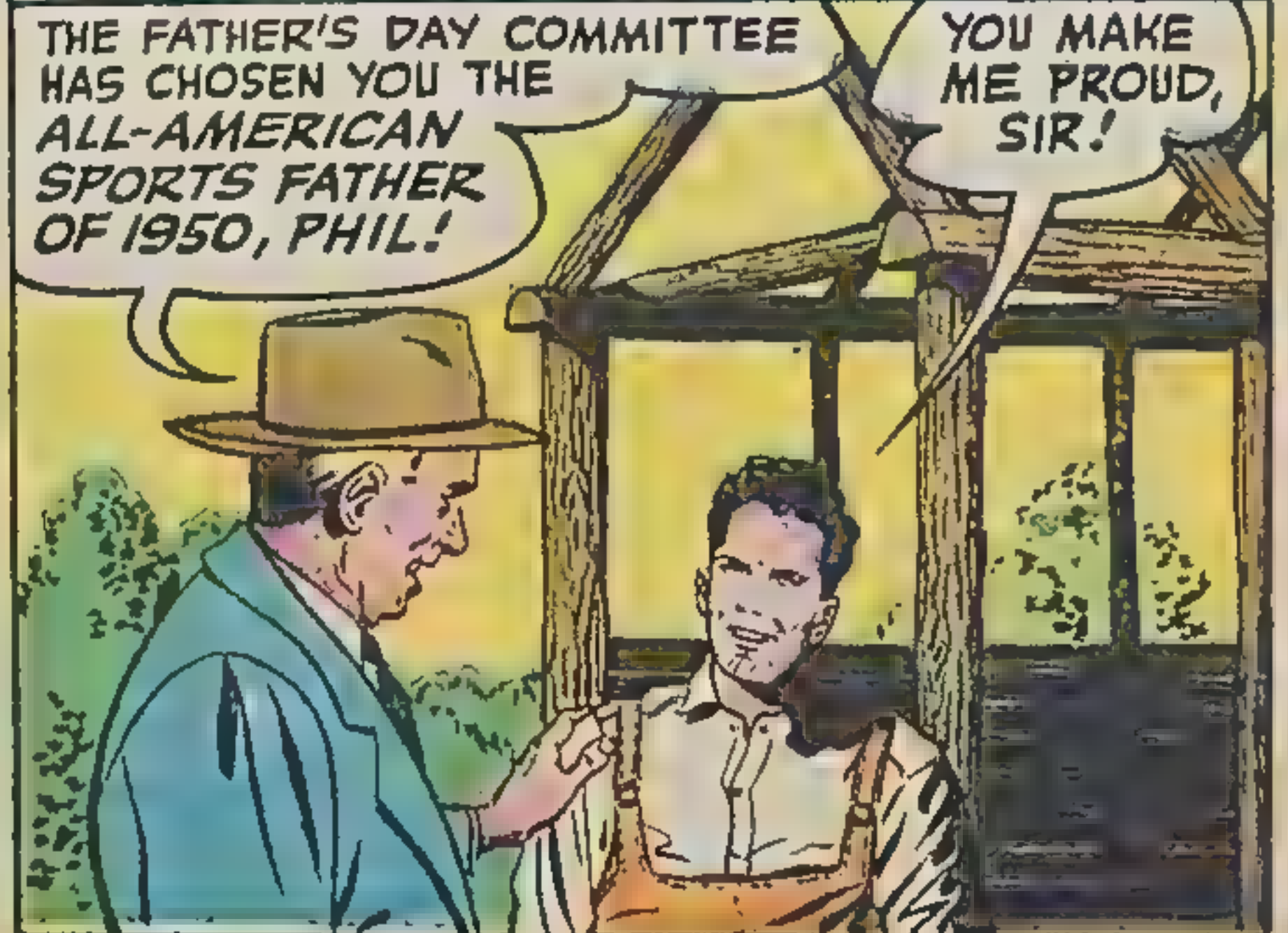
THAT'S WONDERFUL, GENTLEMEN!



EVEN AT HIS HILLSIDE, N. J., HOME, WHERE PHIL WORKED WEEK-ENDS BUILDING A SUMMER HOUSE FOR HIS CHILDREN, VISITORS CAME.

THE FATHER'S DAY COMMITTEE HAS CHOSEN YOU THE ALL-AMERICAN SPORTS FATHER OF 1950, PHIL!

YOU MAKE ME PROUD, SIR!

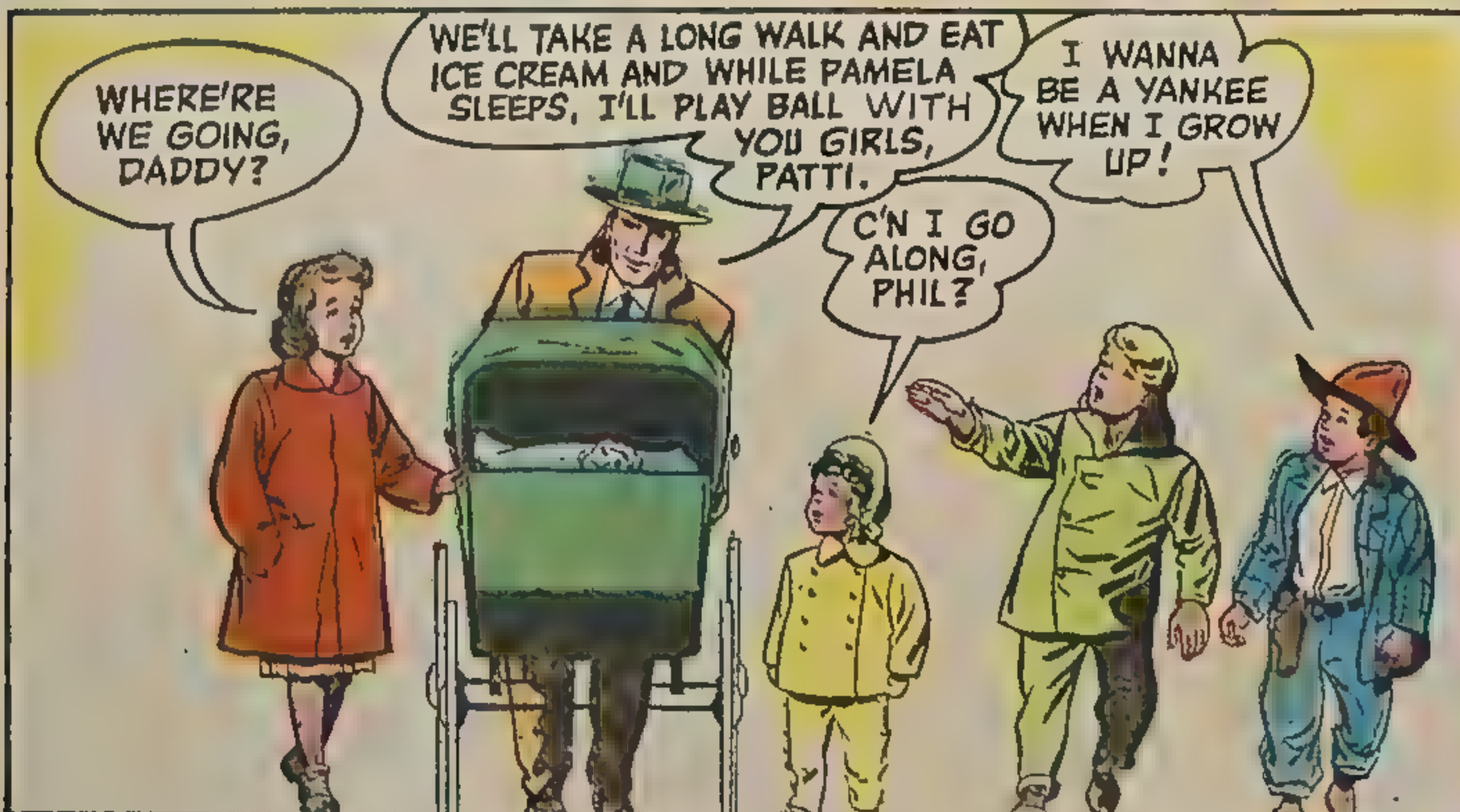


WHERE'RE WE GOING, DADDY?

WE'LL TAKE A LONG WALK AND EAT ICE CREAM AND WHILE PAMELA SLEEPS, I'LL PLAY BALL WITH YOU GIRLS, PATTI.

I WANNA BE A YANKEE WHEN I GROW UP!

C'N I GO ALONG, PHIL?



AND SO PHIL RIZZUTO, THE LITTLE FELLOW WITH TWINKLING FEET AND A GREAT HEART REACHES THE PEAK OF HIS GLORIOUS CAREER, SPARK PLUG OF THE GREATEST BASEBALL TEAM OF ALL TIME... THE IMMORTAL NEW YORK YANKEES!



**MASTER OF THE DOUBLE PLAY  
THE "SCOOTER" GETS TWO!**











A Fawcett Publication

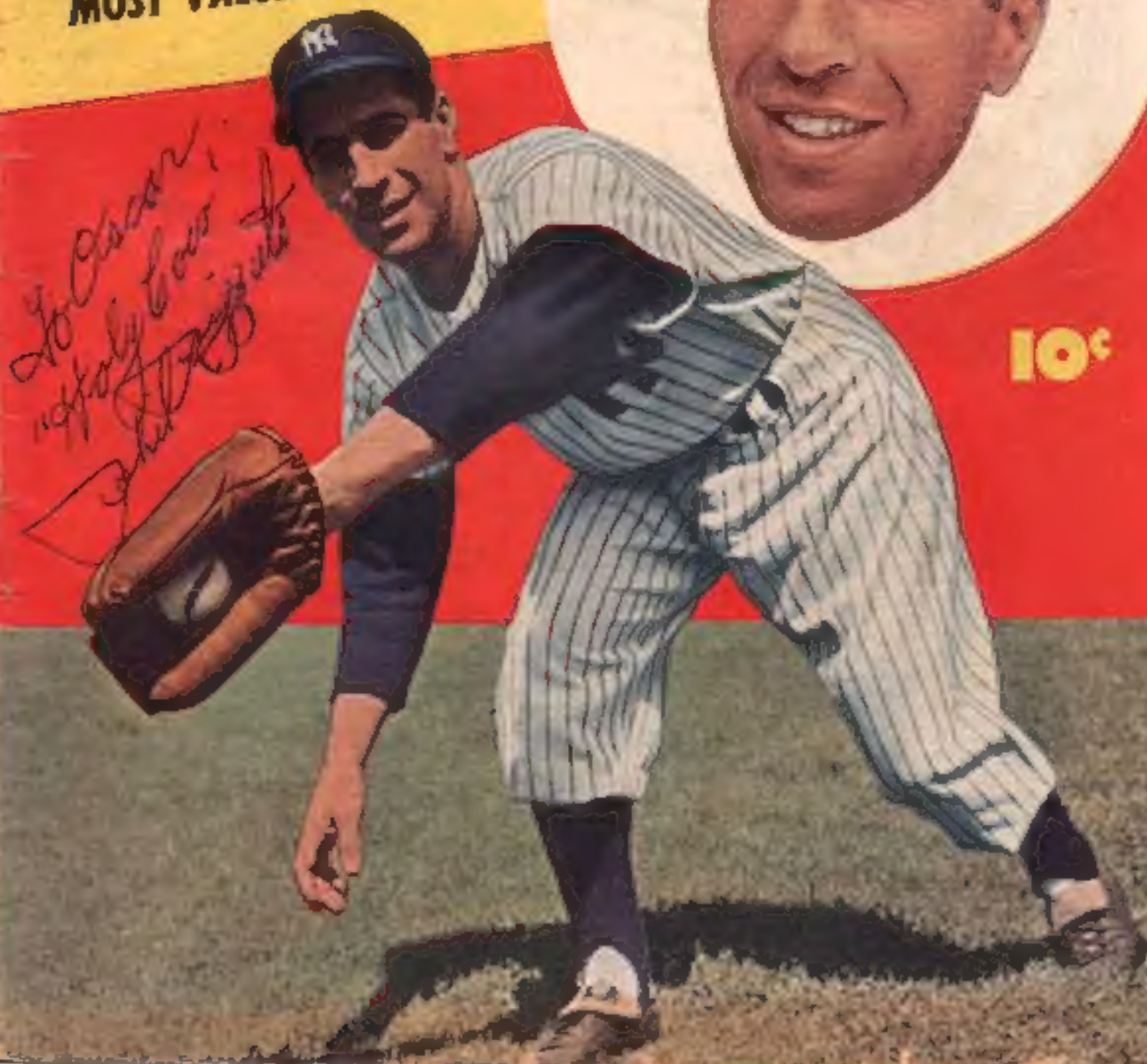
# PHIL RIZZUTO

BASEBALL HERO

THE SENSATIONAL STORY OF  
THE AMERICAN LEAGUE'S  
MOST VALUABLE PLAYER



10¢







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MARCH 20, 2016

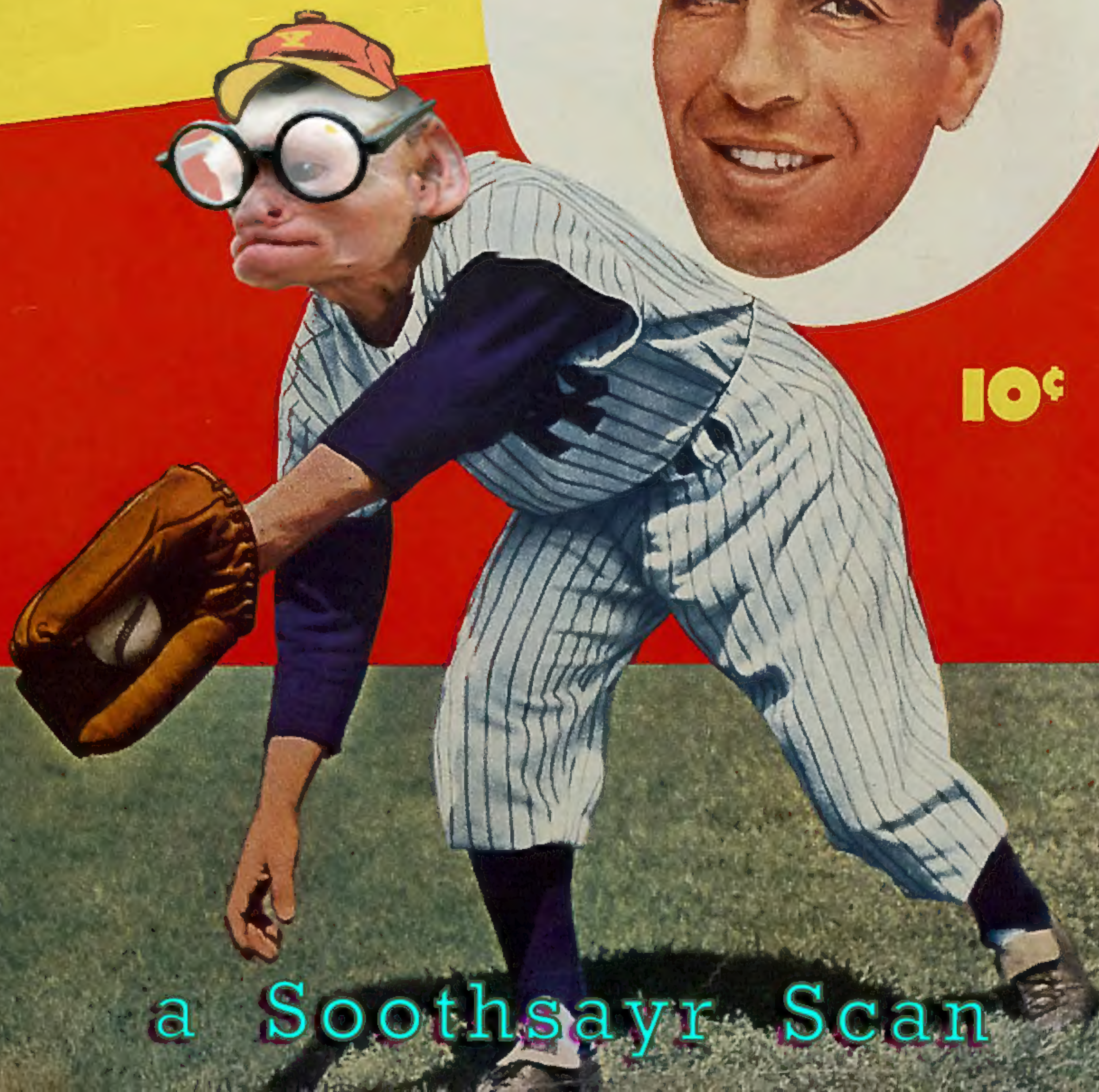
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No. 556



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a Soothsayer Scan